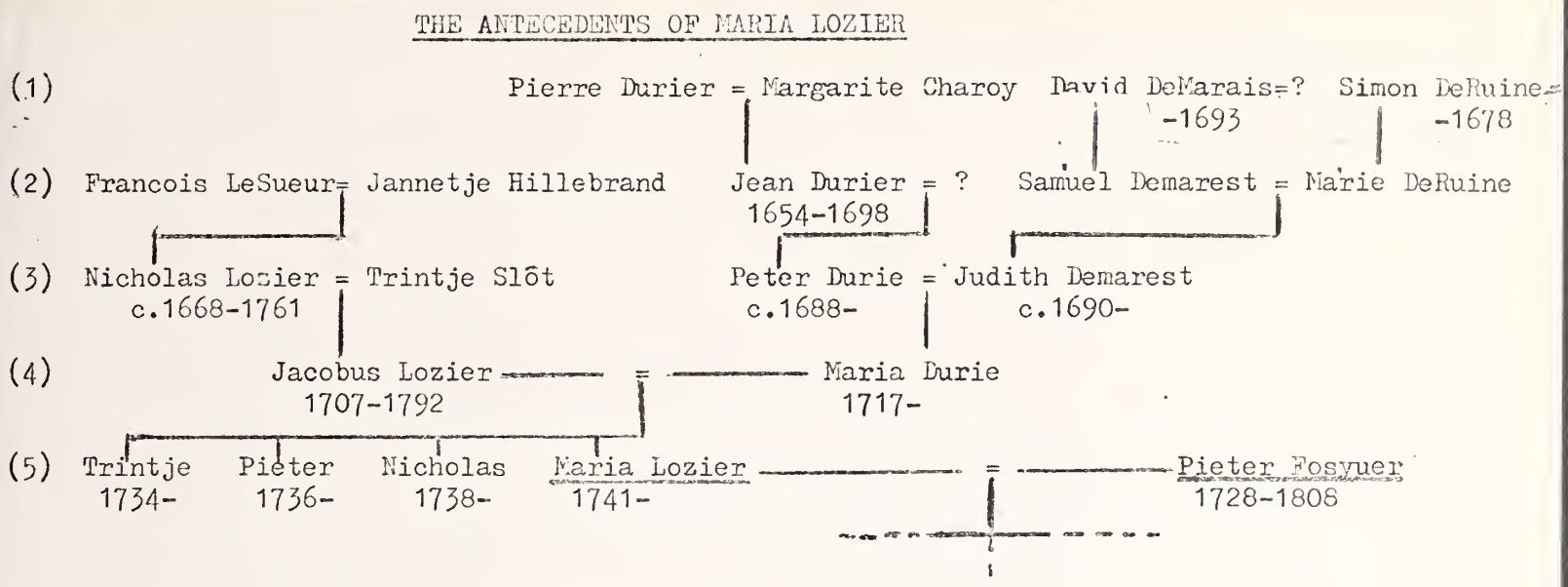
H.C. Burleigh Papers

Forohee

THE ANTECEDENTS OF MARIA LOZIER



DURIE

Jean Durier was baptised 12 Nov 1654 in the Walloon Church at Utrecht, Holland, son of Pierre Durier and Margarite Charoy. He Bought 261 acres of land near Paramus N.J. in 1686. His son Peter Durie married Judith Demarest,21 July 1711, at Hackensack N.J. Their daughter Maria Durie married Jacobus Lozier on 26 Oct 1732. She was born 21 Apr 1717.

DEMAREST (DE MARAIS)

David Demarest, who had lived on Staten Island and in New Harlem, was the founder of the Demarest Colony in the New Milford area of New Jersey in 1678.

DE RUINE

Simon DeRuine lived near Landrecy in Hainault. He arrived on "The Faith" on 12 Feb 1659, from Henegouw, Holland. He lived in New Harlem N.Y.

LOZIER

Francois LeSueur was from Challe-Mesnil, near Dieppe, Normandy, France. He married Jannetje Hillebrand of New Amsterdam, in the New York Dutch Church on 12 July 1659. He died prior to Nov 1671 at Kingston N.Y. Nicholas, his son, was born about 1668, and married Trintje (Catherine) Slôt in New York on 10 Apr 1691. Nicholas then moved to Bergen County, N.J. where he joined the Huguenot Colony. On 29 Sep 1697 he purchased 80 acres in what is now Teaneck N.J. where he made his home. His will was proved in 1761. Nicholas' son Jacobus was baptised at Hackensack 5 Oct 1707. He married Maria Durie 26 Oct 1732. Maria was baptised at Schraalenbergh N.J. 30 Aug 1741 and married Pieter Fosyuer on 10 Feb 1760 at the same place.

These four families were Huguenots.

FORSHEE

Until it settled down to "Forshee" in the early 19th century, the name was spelled phonetically in about thirty different ways, on various records and documents. Peter of the fourth generation signed himself "Pieter Fosyuer"in 1790, and on the same day his son James signed his name "James Forsyuar".James used "Jacobus Forshee" in 1798, and his brother John used "Fosyuar" in 1792.

The name first appears in 1697 on the Philipsburgh (Tarrytown) Church records when "Jan Fouseer and Eva, his wife", became members.

(1) ?Jan Fouseer = Eva ----- Jan Meyenderts

(2) Peter Fousier = Abigail De Pue Jacobus Waldron = Jannetje Meyenderts

(3) Jan Forseur = Catherine Waldron
1706-1782 1698-

(4) Maria Lozier = Pieter Fosyuer 1728-1808 | Barent 1730- | Johannis 1733- | William 1736- | Jannetje 1738-
1741-

	Children	Born	Baptised	Place		Married(in Canada)
	1. Jan		16 Nov 1760	Paramus N.J.	died young	
	2. Jacobus }		20 Feb 1763	Schraalenburgh N.J.	" "	
	3. Barent }		" " "	"	" "	
	4. Katrina		15 Mar 1767	Schraalenburgh N.J.		= Charles Barnhart 1789
(5)	* 5. Jacobus	14 Mar	11 Apr 1769	Tappan N.Y.		= Margaret Mordoff 1798
	6. Jan	23 Aug	15 Sep 1771	Tappan N.Y.		= Sarah Parke by 1795
	7. Barent	29 Mar	24 Apr 1774	Paramus N.J.		= Elizabeth --- by 1801
	8. Jannetje		3 Aug 1777	Schraalenburgh N.J.		
	9. Rebecca	31 Mar	21 May 1780	Ramapo N.J.		= James Vanalstine 1799
	10. Peter		2 Dec 1782	Schraalenburgh N.J.		= Anny Percy by 1808
	11. Cherritye		18 Sep 1785	Schraalenburgh N.J.		= Jacob Post by 1803

* James Forshee = Margaret Mordoff
1769-1853 1777-1836

(6) Mary 1799- | Nancy 1801- | Peter 1805- | Lucy | Catherine 1811?- | **Jannet 1814- | Allen 1819-

** Jannet Forshee = David Wilson
1814-1878 1816-1899

(7) James P. Wilson 1848-1936 | William D.P. | Franklin S.

(8) Cameron Wilson 1881-1962 | Janet 1884-1971 | Mary 1888-

(9) Archibald C.Wilson 1908- | Dorothy E. 1912- | James A. Frost 1918- | David W. 1920-

(10) David C.Wilson 1943- | Richard W. 1946- | Janet Frost | Lisa | Jeffrey Frost | Steven | Holly

Mary E.Ferrier 1943- | Jane C. 1948-

Box 414, Uxbridge, Ont.,
Jan. 25, 1977.

Dr. H. C. Burleigh,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear Dr Burleigh -

On May 24, 1976 I sent you a letter in which I asked for some information pertaining to my family. So far I have not received a reply. I hope that you are fairly well and still able to enjoy life and write a few letters.

I am sure I put my return address on the back of the envelope, and since it did not come back I assume that you received it. However it could have been lost in the Post Office. That has happened before.

In case the letter has been lost, I will repeat part of my letter -

In April 1976, I received a letter from a second cousin of mine living in B.C. who had been told that - (Quote) "either my great grandfather or great great grandfather had married a full-blooded Cherokee woman and that I am a direct descendant of this union. Is this true? I hope it is true because I'm quite proud of the fact that I can be traced to one of the original inhabitants of North America." (End of Quote).

I well remember his grandparents. His grandmother was Mary Wakem of Port Perry - a very fine kind white lady.

His great grandmother was Susan Rombough - daughter of William Rombough U.E.L. and Margaret Lehmidt (Lemon name). We have Susan's picture

His great great grandfather was Charles Barnhart U.E.L. and his wife was Catharine Fosyner.

I notice that Peter Fosyner owned lot 4+5, John lot 14, James (Fosyner) lot 14, all on Con. 3, and all received their patents in 1805.

Have you a file on the Fosyner family? What nationality were they?

(My) grandfather John Barnhart (1793-1875) born at Hay Bay was initiated into Willington Masonic Lodge No 13, on Jan. 1816. Trip of Fredericksburg. This information was obtained from his tombstone near Sharon, Ont. Are the old records of the Lodge available? I am a fourth generation Mason.

Perhaps if you are not able to answer this letter, your daughter would send me a reply. Really all I want is some information on Catherine Fosyner (Dates + Nationality) I am willing to pay her for her work.

Did you receive the coloured slide I sent you - a picture of you and your sister with a broken arm taken in Museum at Bennington?

Where would I find the Haldimand Papers? Could I borrow them through a Lending Library?

Thanking you in advance for your kind attention to this request.
I remain

Yours very truly

E. H. Barnhardt.

H. C. BURLEIGH, M.D.
BATH, ONTARIO

The Revolutionary War in the Hackensack Valley.
The Jersey Dutch and the Neutral Ground.

by

Adrian C. Leiby.

Rutgers University Press,
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Page 106

On December 31 (1776) Colonel Hathorn arrested "four grand and active Tories," on the evidence of David Demarest. Daniel Foshee and John Lockman were two of them: "Daniel Foshee appears to be a Tobacconist . . . He lives in New York, his wife and part of his family is at Tappan, he was apprehended last evening driving fat cattle to New York, he says for the use of his family, but query, his family is principally here: however, he has been here on the same errand before, under pretence of visiting his family . . . Lockman was taken with Foshee driving the cattle."

Note: Quotes from
Hugh Hastings (ed.), Public Papers of George Clinton, New York, 1899

HCB

Marriages Lennox & Addington

George, son of Peter & Lavina Forshee, age 23, living in Fredericksburgh, born in Canada or Camden
Married 4 February 1862
Elizabeth, daughter of David & Sarah B(F)ratto, age 21, living in Ivendemaga & born in Canada

---

Xavier S, son of Frances Depree & Elizabeth Sherman, aged 24, born & residing in Fredericksburgh
Married 7 April 1864
Charlotte Forshee, daughter of Alex^r F. & Hannah Parks, aged 23, born in Richmond & residing in Fredericksburgh.

Henry Joyner, age 25; born in Loughborough & residing in Sheffield.
Married - no date about 1767 between 22 July & 1 Jan.
Maggie, daughter of Allen Forshee, no age, born in Fredericksburgh and residing in Sheffield.

Mrs Donald Fraser
425 Cloverdale Rd.
Ottawa
K1M · 0Y5
Ontario

Hartford, Connecticut 06115

CONNECTICUT GENERAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Archibald C. Wilson, M. D.
Senior Medical Director

Sunday Aug 5th

Dear Doctor:

I had hoped to drop by while at the island but, as usual, we ran out of time.

I thought the enclosures might interest you

Our best regards to both of you

Sincerely

Arch Wilson

LAND PETITIONS OF PIETER FOSYUER AND JAMES FORSYUAR

These petitions and the supporting sworn statements were found in the Public Archives of Canada in April 1969. They provide some interesting new information and also some additional evidence in support of the conclusion that this family came to Upper Canada from the vicinity of New York City (Tappan, N. Y.).

Pieter's Petition dated August 24, 1790

This provides us with the first and only indication we have as to how he himself spelled his name. It also furnishes the first indication that the family had ever claimed to have any right to the designation "loyalist". It should be pointed out, however, that when he refers to himself as a loyalist, he is not claiming to meet the criteria for the designation "United Empire Loyalist" as established later, in 1796.

Despite the wording of his petition, it is not to be presumed that he had no land or that he had just arrived in Upper Canada. There is every reason to believe that he had already purchased a good deal of land (including 200 acres in Richmond which he had bought just four weeks previously). He was requesting a grant of unassigned land in the Seventh Township which was then quite a remote location. The Richmond land was also relatively remote.

The Supporting Statements

It is most interesting to learn that Pieter Fosyuer had been at least a sometime loyalist and had suffered at the hands of the rebels for his trouble. Despite these indications of his loyalty, it could well be that he had not openly declared himself before the close of the war and was, therefore, not eligible to be listed as an United Empire Loyalist. Had he served in any regiment or had his property been confiscated, he would have said so in making this petition. The evidence heretofore available had suggested that his primary motivation in coming to Upper Canada had been the opportunity to acquire land cheaply rather than considerations of loyalty. This still seems a reasonable conclusion.

A number of inferences and conclusions can be drawn from the content of these documents.

Pieter had a house in which to harbor loyalist soldiers in 1781 at which time James would have been about twelve years of age. That there was a Peter considerably older than James on the scene in Upper Canada can no longer be questioned.

The sworn statements were made in Adolphustown at some distance from his home. Adolphustown was settled by individuals who had lived near New York City and had sought safety in the city during the war. Adolphustown was where a man from Tappan would find his former neighbors.

Van Horn was a Tappan name, an Annetje Van Horne having been the mother of the Tappan-born wife of Johannes Forseur (see Smith-Forshee Genealogy p. 104). Abraham Maybe and Gilbert Bogert are known to have formerly lived near New York City. The Tappan Church records include at least one Bogert.

William Green stated "that shortly after his return to New York, he was informed that the said Fosyuar suffered severely on the above account by the rebels". Fosyuar must, therefore, have lived in or near New York. All things considered, he probably was referring to the city of New York rather than the state.

He spells his name "Pieter" as an individual living in a predominately Holland Dutch community might well do. Three entries in the Schraalenberg baptismal records, which are believed to refer to him, spell the given name in this manner.

Nicholas Hagerman, the Justice of the Peace who drafted these documents, was one of the leaders of the community. It is interesting that in composing the text, he refers to the subject individual as "Mr. Peter Fosyuar". At that time, the title "Mr." was not used indiscriminately.

It is to be noted that the petitions of Peter and James bear the same date, August 24, 1790, again suggesting a close relationship. James would be just over twenty-one years of age. The absence of any concurrent petitions by John, Bernard, or the younger Peter supports the apparently well based conclusion that all were younger than James and under twenty-one on that date.

A. C. Wilson, M. D.
August 4, 1969

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Guy Lord Dorchester, Captain General, Governor & Commander in chief of the Colonies of Quebec, Nova Scotia & New Brunswick, & their Dependencies &c &c

The Memorial of Peter Forquier, Loyalist —

Humbly Sheweth

That your Lordship's Memorialist Being a sincere & stedfast friend to the British Government & constitution has come to this Country with a View of Settling here, Requests to be admitted & hopes to receive the Same Indulgence that other subjects of his description have already Received, in expectation of which, He humbly prays that two hundred Acres of land may be assigned to him in the Seventh Township

And your Memorialist as in duty bound Shall ever pray —

Peter Forquier

Kingston
August 24th 1790

To his Excellency Lord Dorchester
In Council, Quebec

No 418 1790

Peter Toeyer

Dist: Mecklenburgh

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Report page 26

Certificate granted

25th August 1790

200 Acres

Personally appeared before me Nicholas Hagerman Esq. Cornelius Van Horne who upon Oath declares, that he was well acquainted with Mr Peter Fosgrum in the time of the late war; that he had been protected by him, and received shelter from the Rebels in his house, that it was reported he Had been taxed & pettioned, by the americans for His Loyalty to his Britanic Majesty.

Sworn before me at Adolphus Town the 2nd of March 1790.
Nich: Hagerman J.P.

Cornelius Vanhorn

We do hereby Certify that it was Commonly Reported in the American States that the above named Peter Fosgrum was a loyalist During the late war.

Peter Vollcall
Isaac Secop
Volkert Rysdyck
John Boyer his + B mark
Abraham Maybee
Garret his + mark Van Horn
Gilbert Bogert
Peter Dafter

Personally appeared before me the Subscriber
Lieutenant Governor Vigerstitt in Greenwich Pro-
Bate Duchess County, being company with
his Office in His Majesty's service, and in the
year 1781 Inlisted for the Term During
Hostilities and so Discharged with Honour

That Shortly after his return to New York
he was impressed Where the said Negroe
Suffered Severely on the Same account by
the Rebels, and has the greatest reason to
Believe that he was a faithfull subject
To his Britannic Majesty during the late
unhappy Warr. — William Green

Sworn before me at
Adolphus Town this
9th March 1790 —
N. Hagerman J.P.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Guy Lord Dorchester Captain General & Governor & Commander in Chief of the Colonies of Lower Canada Nova Scotia New Brunswick, & Their Dependencies Vice admiral of the same, Captain General & Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's forces in said Colonies & in the Island of Newfoundland &c &c &c -

The Memorial of James Thorspear, Loyalist --

Humbly Sheweth

That your Lordship's Memorialist being always firmly attached to the British Government & Constitution has come within his Majesty's lines in expectation of being admitted to become an Inhabitant in the District of Mecklenburgh hopes to receive the same encouragement that other Subjects have been favoured with & humbly prays that two hundred acres of Land may be assigned to him

And your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray

James Thorspear

Kingston
August 24th 1790

To his Excellency Lord Dorchester
Governor & Commander in Chief &c &c
in Council
Lower Canada

No 419 1790

James Forsyth

Cit. of Mecklenburgh 62 C

Repd Page 25

Certificate granted

15 August 1790

200, Acres

Bath, Ont., 12 Sept., 1960.

Dear Dr. Wilson:

Your very interesting letter to hand a few days ago. Many thanks for thinking of me in connection with the Mordoffs. The new information does necessitate a revision of a portion of the Mordoff-Forshee story. I shall appreciate the receipt of the revised pages, with thanks, naturally.

In all my delving into Loyalist backgrounds, I have never spent much time outside of the State Library in Albany. Only once did I ever visit anywhere along the Mohawk, and that was at St. Johnsville. Naturally, such visits must be brief, and I did not glean much information. At one time the St. Johnsville paper ran a weekly genealogical column, dealing mostly with local families and history. I wrote to the editor a few years ago for a subscription if the column was still a part of the paper. I was disappointed, as the column had been discontinued a few years before.

I am going to Albany Sunday coming for a week, and I purpose visiting Fonda on my way home. If I have time, and if he is home, I may call on the retired gentleman. Perhaps I can find something from him, in return for some information with which I supplied him a few years ago. I always am on the lookout for Loyalist names, and I copy all pertinent information, so, if I come on something new, I will forward it to you.

In your discussion of George Murdoff's activities while in the Johnstown District, I note his membership in the Tryon Militia. However, you did not date it. I am wondering it the service was during the Revolution. You must recall that the militia was also pre-Revolutionary, and that a number of stiff Loyalists were in the militia prior to the outbreak.

The Fonda Dutch Reformed Church Records I did not scan. Why, I do not know. I delved into several others in the area--Schenectady, Fort Hunter, Trinity Church, etc. I must search the area more carefully. Anyhow, thanks for the Mordoff baptism.

I simply must give Mrs. Bussing a query or two. I am particularly interested in the Richards Family of Fort Hunter. The man was French & Indian who had been interned during the Conquest of Canada, later married a Dutch-Irish girl of Fort Hunter, and became an interpreter in the Revolution. He settled on Amherst Island. A great great grandson in Calif. is writing the family history.

I am enclosing an application form for Pater. We shall be happy to have him in the Honored Class.

My very best to Mrs. Wilson, the Boys and to your self. And thanks again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Bath, Ontario, 17 Nov., 1959

Dr. A. C. Wilson,
Conn. Gen. Life Ins. Co.,
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Dr. Wilson:

I must apologize for my long delay in answering your letter of last Summer. I have mislaid it. If you recall the confusion to be found in my den, you will readily see how such a thing could happen. As you can well imagine, my wife comes into my room in desperation, and gathers all loose papers and places them, hodge-podge, in some already-filled drawer. As a result, I find a missing paper months later. So, apologies from both of us.

I recall that you had a question to your Smith ancestor who 'came across the St. Lawrence.' I should assume that he crossed somewhere between Quebec City and Prince Edward County. At the same time, it is possible that a person from U. C. would consider the region east of Detroit as belonging to the St. Lawrence. At the same time, I do not recall anyone crossing at Niagara who spoke of it as the St. Lawrence. Therefore, I would assume that he crossed somewhere in the neighborhood of Kingston and Montreal.

I try to have a tidbit for you whenever I write. Here is my latest. It comes from original Hastings County papers belonging to the Rebellion of 1837. These I borrowed in manuscript form and copied only recently.

Kingston, December 11th, 1845.

I hereby certify that I was acquainted with William Fortt of the Township of Tyendinaga in the Victoria District and remember the time his barn, &c., was burned in 1839, and my impression is that the same was set fire to by persons calling themselves "Hunters" on account of the part the said William Fortt took in suppressing the late rebellion in this Province.

(signed) Bernard Forshee.

I certify that the above signature was
written in my presence.

(signed) H. Smith
Warden
Prov. Pent.

For your information, William Fortt, commander of the Mohawks during the Rebellion of 1837, lost his barn and sheds by arson. He collected a number of affidavits confirming this and the possible connection between it and his enemies, the rebels. On the face of it, it looks as if Bernard Forshee was a guard or a prisoner in the Penitentiary at Kingston. It would not appear that he was a political prisoner, as there is no other mention of his name. You have the reference for what it is worth.

Our best regards to Mrs. Wilson and family.

Yours sincerely

E. C. Burleigh

Peter Forgieson = Maria Langer

- James (b. 1799) ae 45 in Jul 1812 Team horses in 1813 = 3.7.1798 Margaret Mundoff
  - 1. Mary bp. 21.7.99
  - 2. Nancy bp 14.2.03
- John (b. 1771) ae 43 in Jul 1812 Mil List Oct 1813 On Carpet Dec 1813 Team Horses Dec 1813 = Sarah Parks
  - 1. Peter bp 22.2.96
  - 2. Mary bp 20.1.99
  - 3. Elizabeth bp. 16.2.01
  - 4. Katy b. 15.3.1803 = 7.12.1820 Andrew Quackenbush
- [illegible]
- Catharine (b. 1766) = 16.2.1789 Chas Barnhart U.E.
  - 1. John b 1794 = 26.12.16 Sarah Clark
    - 2. Peter bp 8.7.92 Sgt 1812
    - 3. Samuel bp 5.10.90 = 28.9.19 Mary Ann Sills
    - 4. Sarah = 29.1.1822 Nicholas Hardenbergh of Camden E.
    - 5. Mary
    - 6. Peter Sills
- Barnard (b. 1772) ae 40 in Jul 1812 Team Horses in 1813 = Elizabeth
  - 1. Mary 25.5.02
- Rebecca (b. 1774) = James [illegible]
  - Cobus [illegible]
- Cyrenius Mil. List. in May 1813
- Peter (b. 1792) d. by 1810 by 1808 = Ann Forney
- Chas (b. [illegible]) = Jacob Post
  - [illegible] 1804

- Jas Peter = Hannah Eliza Roberts
  - Cameron Wilson

CONNECTICUT GENERAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Established 1865
HARTFORD 15, CONNECTICUT

ARCHIBALD C. WILSON, M. D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, REINSURANCE

Friday Nov 30th

Dear Dr Burleigh:

I first want to thank you for a most enjoyable visit. I hope I didn't impose too much but the time went so quickly. To say that I was greatly impressed by the wealth of data and information which you have accumulated would be the grossest of understatements. I had no idea that such a goldmine of information was in existence.

I am afraid that my efforts have been rather careless and incomplete in comparison. Frankly I have been rather preoccupied with direct, rather than collateral lines, and my visits to libraries and historical societies have usually been on the fly without sufficient time to do a thorough job. This is my excuse for the obviously incomplete copies which I am enclosing.

As implied in my comments on page 2 of the attached notes, the old church records for the area around Tappan and Hackensack, which I found in the New York Historical society, interested me greatly. The similarity of Christian names of these families & the Fredericksburg families was striking to say the least, to say nothing of the large number of familiar family names in that area at that time. Actually, I was well convinced that my families had come from there and and were part of this family but despaired of ever sorting them out or being able to definitely establish a relationship. Thanks to you, I now think that I have built up some pretty imposing circumstantial evidence, which to me at least is most impressive.

Having learned from you that the Fredericksburg Foshers included a "Rebecke" and a "Charity" and, probably, a "Peter" who was ~~probably~~ about the same age, I took another look at the Tappan & Schraalenburg baptismal records. Then I proceeded to set down in order the names and birthdates of all children of a father named Peter, irrespective of how the name Fosher had been spelled. To say that I got a pleasant surprise is putting it mildly.

I had previously estimated the birthdates of the Fredericksburg Foshers, as follows

Peter	— probably older than the others + probably the father.
Catherine	about 1766
James	1767-68
John	1769-70
Bernard	about 1772

Your data suggested that there was also

Rebecke	about 1780
Peter	1780-88 — (husband of Anny Percy)
Charity	about 1784

Now look at what I found!

Parents			
Peter Vasie + wife	Jacobus, Barent	twins	1763
Peter Fosier + wife	Katrina		1766
Peter Fozjeur + Maria Lozier	Jacobus	born March	1769
" " " " "	Jan		1771
			1774
P. Fesier + Rebecke	Peter		
Peter Feseur + wife	Jannetje		1777
		long time no child	
			1782
P Vasie + wife	Peter		
Peter Feagun + wife	Charitje		1785

Fredericksburg Foshers with previously estimated birthdates

Catherine	1766
James	1767-68
John	1769-70
Bernard	1772
Rebecke	1780
Peter	17[illegible]-88
Charity	1784

It certainly looks as though Peter was married twice and this is all one family, the twins and the first son named Peter having died. Bernard + Rebecka could well have been baptised elsewhere.

The statistical chances of two different families with the same sequence of names and such a close correlation between birthdates existing at the same time, seems ridiculously small.

In addition I have the following points to offer

1. The Forshes and Laziers claimed to be related (~~and~~ despite no intermarriage after their emigration to Canada)

2. Catherine, James, John and Bernard named their children "Peter" + "Mary" in accordance with the paternal grandfather, paternal grandmother, etc, pattern

3. James Forshee named a daughter "Jeanette"

4. James Forshee's tombstone says that he died Mar 18th, 1853 at the age of 85. If, as you have suggested, he may have claimed an age as of his next birthday, he could have been born March 14th 1769. He was in Canada not later than the spring of 1788 (went to Oswego for flour during the "hungry year") and family tradition says he was 19. on arrival. (Though the muster roll of July 1812 indicates that he then gave his age as 45, I wonder whether he wasn't perhaps anxious to be "over age" for militia duty as soon as possible!)

5. Friends or relatives who witnessed the baptisms of Tappen Forshees included Laziers, Quackenbushes, Bogerts, Perrys, Rotaro and Demarests.

I'm convinced, how about you?

James Forshee married Margaret Mordoff. They had seven children including Jeanette

Jeanette Forshee married Rev David Wilson. They had four children including James Peter

James Peter Wilson B.A. D.D. married Hannah Elizabeth Roberts
They had three children including my father Cameron Wilson.

I have considerable information regarding the descendants of James Forshee. If you would like it, I would be glad to send it along.

Leonard Parks died last spring. His son A. C. Parks ("Bill") lives in St. Catherines. I went to school with him. Am going to try to get another look at ~~them~~ these Parks papers next summer if I can arrange it, and will let you know if I find anything of genealogical interest. Hope to run down to New York some week end and see whether I can pick up any more loose ends on the Forshees. If there is anything I can look up for you just let me know.

Thank you so much for the Barnhart + Aylesworth information.

(Mrs) Jeanette Barnhart Rombough was living in 1935 at the age of 87. She told me she had been named for my great grandmother Jeanette Forshee and was related but she did not know how. Undoubtedly her grandmother was Catherine Forshee.

This has been a long rambling letter. It has been an ambition of mine for nearly 20 years to find some convincing evidence to support my belief that the Forshees came from Tappan. I just couldn't resist telling you about my deductions, and your part in providing the key that unlocked the door.

Needless to say I'm now prepared to "claim" the two preceding generations mentioned in the Cole Genealogy based on nothing more than the fact that James Forshee is said to have understood "plane + traverse" sailing!!

Sincerely

A. C. Wilson

THE COLE GENEALOGY

In 1876 the Rev. David Cole published a family genealogy which gives every evidence of being a most thorough and reliable piece of work. Inasmuch as two Forshee brothers married two of the Coles about 1791, several pages were devoted to the Forshee family. The sources of information are stated to have included family registers and the church records of Tappan, Clarkstown and Kakiat.

"Traditions say that the first American ancestors came to this country as a result of religious persecution in France not far from the year 1700. There is a tradition in the family that a far back ancestor bore the name of Jan; that he followed the sea; that he lived to the great age of 110 and in his 110th year walked one day twelve miles with a grandson and proved himself the better walker of the two.

"The original name we think was Forsieur. Other orthographies, which abound, represent attempts at rendering this French name into Dutch or English.

"The first positive date I have with the name Forseur is that of a birth taken from the family records. Johannes Forseur was baptised at Tappan January 15, 1733. The same record gives his date of death at Kakiat April 21, 1818. Was this the grandson who walked? If so, who was the intermediate link?

"There is a will still in the possession of the family drawn up by one John Forseur who names his wife Elizabeth, his children Jane (wife of Daniel Perry), Peter, Barent, Johannes and the children of his son William (deceased).

"The will finds the family in Harrington, N.J. at the middle of the last century. About that time they moved to Kakiat. A large farm at the latter place became from that date the residence of several generations of Forshees."

— " —

Unfortunately, Mr. Cole did not give the date of the will, but presumably it was somewhere near ~~1750~~ 1776 or a little later. He was convinced that the Johannes named in the will was the grandson who walked, and the same man who was born January 15, 1733, the intermediate link being Jan, the author of the will.

He thus reconstructs the following line:

I Jan Forseur, who lived to 110 years.
II Jan Forseur, who had children Jane, Peter, Barent, Johannes and William.
III Johannes, b. January 15, 1733, d. April 21, 1818
IV Bernard and Cornelius Forshee, who married Anna and Elizabeth Cole.

It would be reasonable to assume that the first of these was born about 1670 and the second about 1700.

This was put together some time ago aew

The following excerpts from various baptismal and marriage registers of churches in New York and the vicinity of Tappan are included primarily to demonstrate that there were numerous people by the name of Forshee (or one of its more than thirty variants) in that general vicinity in the early seventeen hundreds, and

that they were all extremely partial to the names John, Peter, Jacobus (James), Catherine and Barent (Bernard). These names are of interest because they are also the names of the earliest Forshees of record in Canada.

We cannot tell how the people involved in these entries were related, nor can we determine, for example, whether the various Peters listed as parents represent two, three, or four or more different individuals. For lack of more specific information as to the birthdates of our Forshees, we cannot definitely identify any of these entries with them. It is entirely likely that these records do not include all of the children in these families, nor all of the branches of the family.

Since James Forshee is known to have been related to the Lazier and Demarest families, it is interesting to see these names appearing in the role of relatives or close friends at these baptisms.

Actually, the Tappan church records looked almost like a roster of the early Bay of Quinte Loyalist settlers -- Switzer, Hering, Gerow, Gordanier, Mabee, Trumpour, Cronk, Vander Voort, Van Blaricom, Clark, Ratan, Cole, Quackenbush, Bogart, Perry, Post and a host of others.

Though the Forshees were undoubtedly French Huguenots, they had probably lived in Holland for a few years before emigrating to America. This together with the fact that they were then living in a predominantly Dutch community, is responsible for the Dutch forms given to their names.

— " —

The French Huguenot Church of New York (Eglise francoise a la Nouvelle York) 1688-1802, became Episcopal in 1804 as the "French Church Du Saint-Esprit". Its parish register contains the following entries: (Translated into English)

> "Baptism to-day, Sunday May 26th, 1712, Susanne Forestier, daughter of Peter Forestier, born last April 20th and presented for the Sacrament of Baptism by daniel bontecon and Susane Coutan, godfather and godmother, baptised by Mr. Louis Rou, Pastor."

> "Baptism to-day, Sunday June 11th, 1715. Mr. Louis Rou baptised Marie forestier, born last April 28th, daughter of Peter forestier and of Catherine Terrié and presented for the Sacrament of Baptism by Charles forestier and Susanne la Moureux, godfather and godmother."

From the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Schraalenburg:

August 8, 1731 Johannes Ratan
Parents Paulus Ratan Elisabeth Foshier
Witnesses Abram Ratan Catherine Ratan

January 21, 1738 Maritjen
Parents Jacob Fescheur Isesya Jacobs
Witnesses Paulus Ratan and wife

February 20, 17~~38~~63 Jacob and Barent (twins)
Parents Pieter Vasie and wife
Witnesses Jacob Lasier and wife
Barent Vasie and wife

October 4, 1764 Peter Kwalenbos
Parents Kwalenbos (Quackenbush A.C.W.)
Witnesses Peter Fasei and wife

March 15, 1766 Katrena
Parents Peter Fasier and wife
Witnesses Jan Vasieur and wife

1774 Peter
Parents P. Fesier and Rebecke

March 21, 1777 Isaac
Parents Jacob Fesyer and wife

August 24, 1777 Elisabeth
Parents Barent Fescheur and wife

August 31, 1777 Jannetje
Parents Peter Feseur and wife

December 15, 1782 Pieter
Parents P. Vasie and wife
Witnesses Pieter Fasier and wife

September 18, 1785 Cherritye
Parents Pieter Fesyeur and Wife
Witnesses Nich. Fazier and wife

July 7, 1788 Barent
Parents Samuel Demarest and wife
Witnesses Barent Vasei and wife

From the marriage records of the Reformed Church of Hackensack, N. J. (12 miles from Tappan).

"Peter Fesieur young man lomat* Tappan and Maria Lazier young woman lomat Schralenburg."

*"lomat" means "living at"

"Barent Forshee and Anne Cole June 22, 1791."

Baptisms of an Irregular Congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church at Tappan Existing from 1767-1778.

(The name of the child is followed by the date of birth, the date of baptism, the names of the father, mother, and witnesses.)

ENTRY#

8 Cathrina Fosjeur by Dominie Blaeuw January 13, 1768 February 9
Wilm Fosjeur Elizabeth Blauvelt
Jan Fosjeur Cathrina Waldrom

33 Jacobus Fosjeur by Dominie Rubel March 14, 1769 April 11
Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier
Jacobus Lazier Marie Durie

65 Jan Fosjeur August 23, 1771 September 15
Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier

88 Jan Fosjeur and his wife Elisabeth witnessed witnessed a baptism on March 27, 1774

89 Grietje Fosjeur March 29, 1774 April 10
Wilm Fosjeur Elisabeth Blauvelt
Cornelius Bogert Margrietje Blauvelt

121 Jannitji Fosjeur March 8, 1776 April 8
Wilm Fosjeur Elisabeth Blauvelt
Daniel Perrie Jannitje Fosjeur

From the records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kakiat (West Hempstead, N. Y.)

Katrina born October 29, 1789 baptised November 8, 1789
Parents Jan Foshuer, Katrina Quackenbos

Barent born 1790
Parents Andries Debaan, Jannetje Forsheur

From the baptismal records of the Regular Congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church at Tappan.

Jacob Wiltsie and Abigail Faseur have

Peter November 3, 1767
Jacob December 3, 1769
Samuel December 9, 1771
James February 22, 1794

WILL

Johanes Fysheur of Hampstead
Dated March 22, 1813
Probated April 25, 1818
Sons - John, Abram, Peter, Bornit, Cornelius, Wm., Samuel, Jonas Daniel, Isaac
Dau. - Maritje, Lucy, Catherine, Mary
Execs. John, Abram, Jonas, Daniel

Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kakiat (West Hempstead), Rockland Co., N.Y., 1774-1864.

Katrina born October 29, 1789 Jan Foshuer
baptised November 8, 1789 Katrina Quackenbos

Data from Cyrenius Parke's Will 9 February 1828
Wife Elizabeth Probated 1 November 1828

son	Nathl Parke	400 acres	Rawdon twp. Co. Hastings
dau	Sarah Forshee	5/-	
son	Jos. Parke	5/-	
son	Archd. Parke	5/-	
dau	Eliz. McCabe	5/-	
dau	Clarinda Parke	5/-	
son	John Parke	5/-	
son	Cyrenius Parke, Junr	5/-	
son	James Parke	5/-	
grandson	Martin Shuman	5/-	
dau	Hannah Forshee	W ½ lot 4 - 3rd Conc. Richmond (100 ac.)	
dau	Susannah Parke	E ½ lot 4 " " "	

to my two youngest sons - on decease of or marriage of their mother

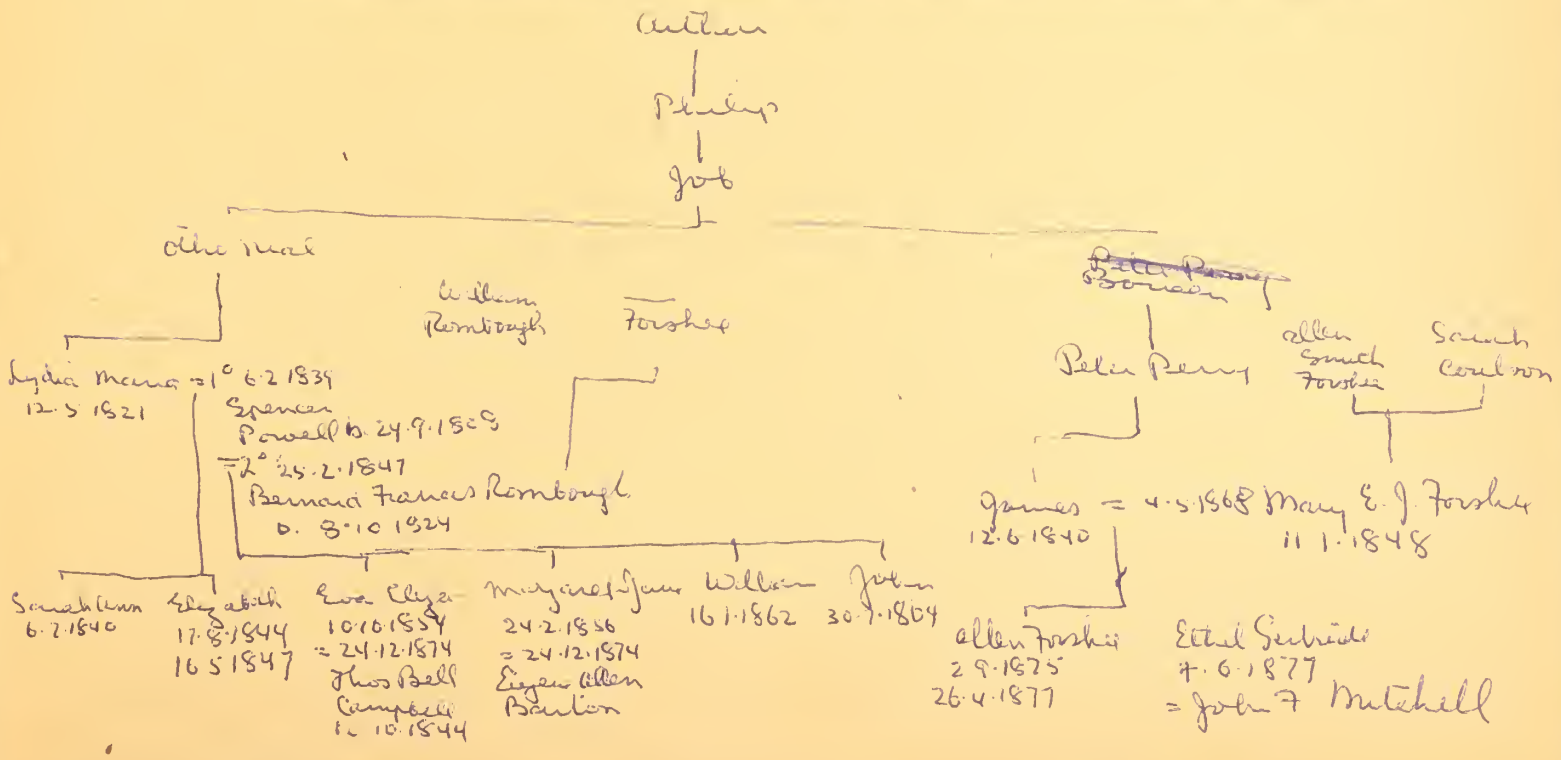
David Parke) W½ of lot 5)
Milo Parke) lot 6) 4th Conc. Fred. addn'l.
lot 7)

Cornelius Parke 12 acres and sawmill
Remainder to Eliz. to be divided between three youngest children David, Susannah and Milo.

Signed Ezekl Benson, Peter Parks, Cornelius Parke

179. LYDIA MARIA (5) AYLSWORTH (Otho Nial 4, Job 3, Philip 2, Arthur 1), born May 12, 1821, married first Feb. 6, 1839, Spencer Powell, carpenter, born Sept. 24, 1808, son of Nathaniel Powell, of West Branch, Oneida County, N. Y., whose mother's name was Spencer, and whose parents came from Dutchess County, N. Y., about 1800.
Children:
1. Sarah Ann (6), born July 6, 1840; died Mar. 27, 1840.
2. Elizabeth (6), born Aug. 17, 1844; died May 16, 1847.
She married second, Feb. 25, 1847, Bernard Francis Rombough, born Oct. 8, 1824, Napanee, Ont., whose father's christian name was William, and whose mother's maiden name was Forshee. They were living in 1879 at West Warren, Mass.
Children:
3. Eva Eliza (6), born Oct. 10, 1854; married Dec. 24, 1874, at Lee Centre, Oneida County, N.Y., Thomas Bell Campbell, born Oct. 10, 1844, and were dwelling, 1879, in New Hartford.
4. Margaret Jane (6), born Feb. 24, 1856; married Dec. 24, 1874, in West Warren, Mass., Eugene Allen Barton, born Sept. 14, 1843.
5. William (6), born Jan. 16, 1862.
6. John (6), born July 30, 1864.

516. JAMES (6) AYLSWORTH (Peter Perry 5, Bowen 4, Job 3, Philip 2, Arthur 1) was born in Ernesttown, Ont., June 12, 1842, and married May 4, 1868, MARY ESTATIA JANNET FORSHEE, who was born Jan. 11, 1848, in the Township of North Fredericksburgh, and who was a daughter of Allen Smith and Sarah (Coulson) Forshee, of North Fredericksburgh.
They dwelt in the village of Tamworth, Ont., where he was a Justice of the Peace, issuer of marriage licences, commissioner for taking affidavits, , and licence inspector for Addington District under the Ontario Liquor Licence Act. He was also a druggist and bookseller, and for some time was postmaster of Tamworth (died 14 Oct., 1922).
Children:
1. Allen Forshee (7), born Sept. 2, 1875; died in Tamworth Apr. 26, 1877.
2. Ethel Gertrude (7), born June 4, 1877; married John F. Mitchell.



BARNHART FILE.

Charles Barnhart, of Fredericksburgh, marr. 16 Feb., 1789, Catharine Fosyuar.
Children:

1. Joseph, of Fredericksburgh, marr. 26 Dec., 1816 Sarah Clark. He drew land as son of a Loyalist by Order in Council 19 Apr. 1816.
2. Peter, of Fredericksburgh, bapt. 8 July, 1892. Drew land as son of a Loyalist 19 April, 1816.
3. Samuel, of Fredericksburgh, bapt. 3 Oct., 1790, marr. 28 Sep., 1819 Maryann Sills, who was born Aug., 1789. He drew land as son of a Loyalist 19 Apr., 1816.
4. Sarah, marr. 29 Jan., 1822, Nicholas Rombough, of Camden East. She drew land as daughter of a Loyalist by O.-in-C. 19 Aug., 1833.
5. Mary, marr. Peter Sills, of Fredericksburgh. She drew land as a dau. of a Loyalist by O.-in-Council 4 Oct., 1826

Census of 1790

New York

Foshee

Westchester County

Mount Pleasant Town

	males over 16	males under 16	females
Foshea, John Senior	2	2	5
" John Junior	1	1	1
" James	1	1	4
" William	2	0	2
" Matthew	1	2	4

Bay Centre (Sand Hill) Cemetery

North Fredericksburgh

James Forshee, died 18 March, 1853, aged 85 yrs

Margaret Forshee (Mordoff) died 20 mar., 18[illegible] aged 58 yrs

Lavina, wife of Peter J. Forshee, died 18 July, 1842, aged 28 yr. 4 mo. 19 dy

Forsyner

L L Rolls
Descendants

Sarah Forsyner, 3, dau of Cyrene
Parks, soldier K. Rangers 18 Nov 1797
200-4 E.

Before Oliver to Bedlow & Keller &c
Going out to William Spotswood
after your Mon[illegible] £ 2 . 6 3
taking him Thence [illegible] 1 . 3
to hire Barrels [illegible] 3 . 9
to fine Bashels [illegible] 5 . 0
to four Bushels [illegible] chestnut 10 . 0
Ballance due Keller [illegible] 1 . 3
[illegible] 6 . 6
Peter [illegible] Peter [illegible]
to [illegible] 3 taitowls [illegible]
two Corn

The Marriage Register of St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburg.—
No. 2.

No. 26 Banns of Marriage between Jacobus Forsyuar of St. Cuthbert's, Fredericksburg, and Margaret Mordoff of St. Paul's, Fredericksburg, were published on July 1, 8, and 16th 1798 by me John Langhorn, Episcopal Missionary.—

Jacobus Forsyuar of Fredericksburg in the county of Essex, Upper Canada, Bachelor, and Margaret Mordoff alias of Fredericksburg in the county and Province afore said, Spinster, were married in this Church by Banns this twenty-third Day of July in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninety eight by me,

John Langhorn, Missionary.—

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

Jacobus Forsyuar
Margaret her + mark Mordoff

This Marriage was solemnized in the presence of us,

Barnard Forsyuar
John Mordoff
Duncan Bell
Charles Barnhart

Lanphorn

Forshee

James 3W 16 Feb 1789 Catharine = Chas Barnhart 3
3W 9 Aug 1796 c Barnard + John
3M 3 Jul 1798 Margaret Mordoff wits Barnard → Mary 3 bap Jul 21, 1799
Nancy 3 " Feb 14, 1802

Catharine 3M 16 Feb 1789 Chas Barnhart wits James.

John 3W 9 Aug 1796 c James + Barnard (Park)
4W 18 Mar 1792 = Sarah → Peter 3 bap Feb 22, 1796
Mary 3 " Jan 20, 1799
Elizth 3 " Feb 16, 1801
Katy 3 born 13 Mar 1803
1797 Lds as Loyalist.

Barnard 3W 9 Aug 1796 c James + John
3W 3 Jul 1798 wits James = Margaret Mordoff.
= Elizabeth → Mary 3 bap Mar 25, 1802

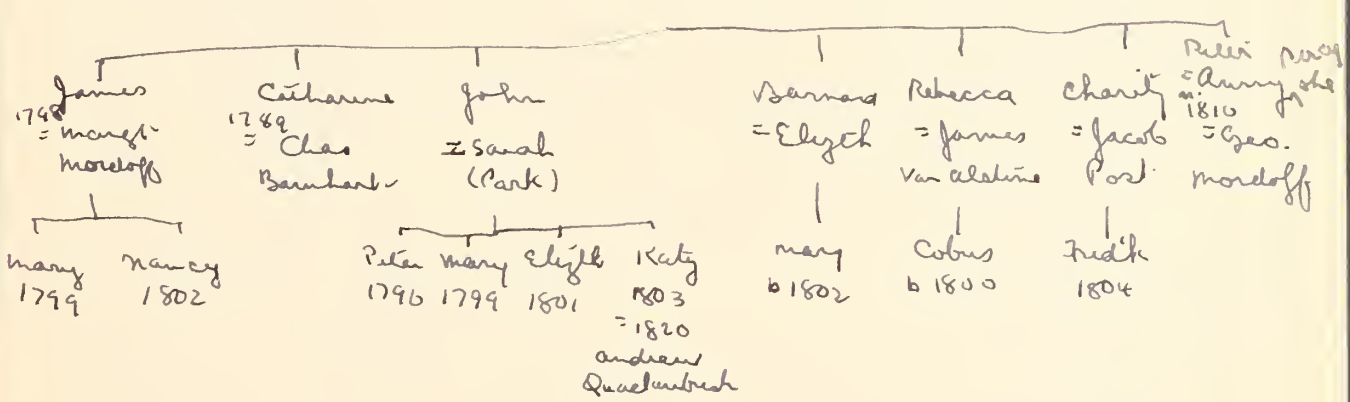
Anny 3M 6 Sept 1810 Geo. Mordoff wits Michael Percy.

McD

Catharine 3M Andrew Quackenbush 3 7 Dec 1820

Rebecca 3 = James Van Alstine → Cobus ~~bapt~~ 4 May 1800

Charity = Jacob Post → Frederick 3 born 21 Aug 1804



Lutheran Church Records

Marriages

Peter Van Alstine & Cornanda Forshee, of Fredericksburgh, married Mar. 11, 1830

Peter Forshee, witness of marriage of Andrew Fraser, of Ernesttown, & Katharine Forshee, Fredericksburgh, May 4, 1831.

McDonald Registr

Marriages

Andrew Quackenbush & Catharine Forshee both of Fredericksburgh 7 Dec 1820.

Baptisms

Fredericksburgh

James Van Alstine, Rebecka Forshee → Cobus b. 9 May 1800

Martin Forster, Elizabeth Bowen → Katharine b. 15 Sept 1801

Jacob Post, Charity Forshee → Frederick b. 21 Aug 1804
bp 9 Sep 1804

John Forshee, Sarah Peck → Polly b. 13 Mar 1803

FORSHEE OR FOSYUAR

From "Ontario Historical Society Papers & Records", Vol. 1, 1899.

p. 15 Marriage Records of Rev. John Langhorn.

#22 Charles Barnhart & Catharine Fosyuar, February 16, 1789.

p. 27 Marriage Register of St. John's Church, Ernest Town, #3.

#52 George Mordoff & Anny Forshee, September 6, 1810.

p. 43 Register of Baptisms in Fredericksburgh.

Peter, son of John & Sarah Fosyuar, Fredericksburgh, February 22, 1796.

p. 47 Mary, dau. of John & Sarah Forsyuar, Fredericksburgh, January 20, 1799.

Mary, dau. Jacobus & Margaret Forsyuar, Fredericksburgh, July 21, 1799.

p. 49 Nancy, dau. Jacobus & Margaret Forshee, Fredericksburgh, February 14, 1802.

Elizabeth, dau. John & Sarah Forshee, ~~Forshee~~ Fredericksburgh, February 16, 1801.

p. 50 Mary, dau. Barnard & Elizabeth Forshee, Fredericksburgh, May 25, 1802.

p. 68 Rev. John Langhorn's Marriage Register at St. Paul's, Fredericksburgh.

Jacobus Forshee & Margaret Mordoff, both of Fredericksburgh, July 3, 1798.

p. 89 McDowall Marriage Register.

Andrew Quackenbush & Catharine Forshee, both of Fredericksburgh, December 7, 1820.

p.102 Baptisms in Fredericksburgh by Rev. Rob't McDowall.

Katy, dau. of John Forshee & Sarah Park, born March 13, 1803.

FORSHEE OR FOSYUAR

From "Cartwright Papers"

1835 Deed of Bargain & Sale, James Forshee, Fredericksburgh Twp., to John S. Cartwright, of Lot 39, Con. 8, Camden. March 12, 1835.

Forshee

Peter =
Ped. ld. 1804

- b. 1770? Catharine -3 = 16.2.1789 Chas Barnhart - w. James
- b. 1772? Barnard w 9.8.1796 -3- w 3.7.1798 = Elizabeth
  - Mary b. 25.5.1802 -3-
- b. 1774? John w 9.8.1796 -3 = Sarah Eck dau. Cyrenius
  - Peter b. 22.2.1796 -3
  - Mary b. 21.7.1799 -3-
  - Elizabeth b. 16.2.1801 -3-
  - Katy b. 13 + 1803 -3 = 1.12.1820 -3 Andrew Quackenbush
- b. 1776? James (Jacobus) w 16.2.1789 -3- w 9.8.1796 -3- = 5.7.1798 -3- Margaret Mindoff w Barnard
  - Mary b. 21.7.1799 -3-
  - Nancy b. 14.2.1802 -3-
- b. 1780? Rebecka = James Van Alstine
  - Cobus b. 9.5.1800 -3-
- b. 1790? Peter = Anny Percy dau m Ind. = b. 9.1810 Geo. Mindoff w. Michael Percy act 15
- b. 1778? Charity = Jacob Frost
  - Frederick b. 21.8.1804 -3-

Forshee
Fosyner
Forhier?

Forshee, Catharine[3] = Charles Barnhart[3] 2.16.1789

James[3] wits 2.16.1789, 8.9.1796

Jacobus[3] = Margaret Mordoff[3] 7.3.1798,

→ Mary[3] bp 7.21.1799

Nancy[3] bp 2.14.1802

Barnard wits[3] 8.9.1796 = Elizabeth[3] 7.3.1798 → Mary[3] bp 5.25.1802

John wits 8.9.1796 = Sarah wits 3.8.1792 → Peter[3] 2.22.1796

Mary[3] 1.20.1799

Elizabeth[3] 2.16.1801

U.E. List Supp

John (Forsyer) B. Rangers.

Loy. Claim & Witness nil.

L.B.O

Sarah 11.18.97 alias Parks. Prov. lds. as U.E. 200 as U.E.

fo

Sons & Daus of U.E.

Public Archives Ottawa.

Dau. daughter of John Percy, of Smithtown and wife of Peter Forshee of Fredericksburgh. d.s. 15 Nov 1838 (copied from Percy File)

FOREWORD

Several members of our family were among the first permanent settlers of what is now the Province of Ontario. This settlement took place during the years immediately following the close of the American Revolutionary War in 1783. In order to appreciate the significance of some of the information we have about some of these people, it is necessary for us to know some of the historical background and particularly why, and under what circumstances, they migrated to Canada. Some comments as to the nature of the surviving records also seems to be indicated.

The Tories

Briefly, these people came from the United States, which in most cases they were forced to leave, because during the war they had been opposed to the Patriot party and American independence. They had been in favor of the established order, and had either actively participated in the war as soldiers in Royalist regiments, or had been outspoken "tories" who favored retaining the ties with England.

It is not my purpose to attempt to defend the position taken by either party in the American Revolutionary War. Suffice it to say that neither the Daughters of the American Revolution version, which would have the whole country (save a few tax collectors and other holders of office and privilege) rising as one man to throw off the tyrannical yoke of Britain, nor indeed the other extreme which would have the patriot cause led and nourished exclusively by obscure pettifogging lawyers, outlawed smugglers and jealous "have-nots", is the correct one. Probably about one third of the colonists favored the patriot cause, one third favored the British cause, and the remainder sat on the fence.

In any event, those who openly joined the British cause or refused to formally deny their British sympathies were forced to flee their homes, had their property destroyed or confiscated, were imprisoned, tarred and feathered, or otherwise molested. Such treatment may have been justifiable during hostilities, but it is difficult to find any excuse for its continuance after the close of the war.

Although the Peace of Paris which terminated the war provided that there should be no further confiscations of property, that properties confiscated should be returned or restitution made, and that creditors on either side should meet no lawful impediment to the collection of all debts, the victorious faction showed no disposition to comply with any of these provisions. (South Carolina was the only exception. There the treaty obligations were met, and the Tories were not only accepted and given the full privileges of citizens, but were indemnified for their losses, and this in spite of the fact that nowhere had the depredations of British troops been more severe than in South Carolina.) Upon the slightest pretext, the property of Tories was confiscated and not infrequently passed to some prominent official and never reached the public coffers. Private hate and greed won out against the authorities. Local interests paid little

attention to the dictates of Congress, which was therefore powerless to control the situation. (In retaliation, the British refused to give up the military posts at Oswego, Niagara, Detroit, and Michilimackinac. They were not turned over to the new United States until 1796.)

The close of the war found several thousand civilian refugees in New York City where they had been living under British protection. Many of these people had lost all of their property and were without resources. In addition, there were, throughout the colonies, thousands of disbanded soldiers who had fought in Royalist regiments. Some of the latter were in New York. Many others attempted to return to their former homes.

A residue of almost four thousand (out of a total of twelve thousand who were evacuated from New York City in 1783) were offered transportation to Canada and grants of land along the north shore of Lake Ontario, which they accepted. Except for a few families, the financial condition of most of these probably left them little choice. They left New York in September 1783 in five British ships, arriving at their final destination in the Bay of Quinte district in June 1784.

At the close of the war and during the ensuing few years, due to continuing persecution, many ex-soldiers and residents of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Mohawk Valley, and to a less degree other places and states, were forced to leave their homes and make their way overland to Canada, with what little they could carry. While many of these joined those who had emigrated from New York City to the eastern end of Lake Ontario, many others went to the area around Niagara. Some of these later emigrants went overland directly to Niagara, but those from the eastern seaboard usually proceeded up the Hudson and Mohawk rivers and Wood Creek, portaging to Lake Oneida and thence to Oswego and Lake Ontario. Others followed the old Champlain route down the Richelieu to Sorel, and thence up the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario.

The influx of refugees up to 1790 consisted of those who had suffered more actively for the royal cause. After 1790, an increasing proportion came for other reasons, including the opportunity to acquire land easily in a new country.

In all, about eighty thousand "tories" left the country. Of these, a large number had been conveyed to New Brunswick on the evacuation of Boston. Ultimately, about ten thousand went to the north shore of Lake Ontario and the Niagara district. Some went to the Bahamas, and many returned to England. A large proportion had been men of wealth and prominence.

The Settlements on Lake Ontario

In 1784, when the first settlers arrived, the country was a wilderness of forest. At Cataraqui (Kingston) stood a barracks on the site of the old French fort, Fort Frontenac. Fort Niagara guarded the entrance to the Niagara river. There was a blockhouse at Fort Erie protected with palisades, and a military post at Detroit. Around these military posts there was just enough cultivation to supply the officers' mess with vegetables.

During the war a few refugee families had made their way to FORT Niagara, and by the summer of 1782 there were sixteen families comprising ninety-three persons settled there. They had 236 acres under cultivation and were supporting themselves with the assistance of rations granted by the government.

There had been no thought of colonisation in "Canada" until the British government was compelled to find homes for the Loyalists who had sought refuge in New York City under Sir Guy Carleton.

The group which left New York in the fall of 1783 were transported up the St. Lawrence as far as Sorel in ships. Here they spent the winter in tents and rude log shelters under very rigorous conditions. In the spring they made their way up the St. Lawrence and its numerous rapids to Lake Ontario in flat bottomed bateaux, arriving in June of 1784.

In anticipation of their arrival, the British Government had purchased from the Mississauga Indians forty miles of land extending westward from the eastern end of Lake Ontario.

Preliminary surveys of eight townships extending along the north shore of Lake Ontario from Cataraqui (Kingston) to the Trent River had already been done.

These townships were first called "First Town" (of Cataraqui), "Second Town", "Third Town", etc. Later they were named (for the children of George III): 1. Kingston; 2. Ernestown; 3. Fredericksburgh; 4. Adolphustown; 5. Maryburgh; 6. Sophiasburgh; 7. Ameliasburg.

On arrival, the various groups camped in tents along the shore, awaiting completion of the surveys. According to a return made in 1784 and signed by Sir John Johnson, formerly of the Mohawk Valley and the Commanding officer of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, these settlers consisted of the following bands, located as follows:

1st. Battalion, King's Royal Reg't of N.Y.	twps	1 to 5--1467
Part of Jessup's Corps	"	6,7,8--495
2nd. Battalion, King's Royal Reg't of N.Y.	"	3&4------310
Capt. Grass's Party	twp	1 -------182
Part of Jessup's Corps	"	2 -------434
Major Rogers' Corps	"	3 -------299
Major Vanalstine's party of Loyalists	"	4 -------258
Different detachments disbanded regulars	"	5 -------259
Detachments of Germans with Baron Reitzenstein		5 -------44
Rangers of the Six Nations and Loyalists settled with the Mohawks at Bay of Quinte		-------28
		3776

1568 men, 626 women, 1492 children, 90 servants.

----- * -----

When the surveys were finally completed, the numbers of the lots were placed in the surveyor's hat, from which they were drawn. Each settler was then given a "location ticket" for the lot he had drawn, and his name was written on the survey map. These maps are still preserved in the Dept. of Crown Lands at Toronto.

...

The government had agreed to provide them with tools and clothing and provisions for a period of three years. They picked sites for their homes and set about building rude houses of logs and clearing their land. Their first crops were sown among the stumps of the trees they had felled. The trees were large, horses and oxen they had none, and life was rigorous in the extreme. They must have entered on their tasks with heavy hearts when they reflected on the homes and farms they had left to come to this wilderness. During the first few years, many became discouraged, disposed of their land and left. Others lost their land and deteriorated to the status of tenant farmers and servants of the more provident. Some parted with their holdings for a pint of rum or some other trivial consideration. Others regarded their locations as too remote to be of any real value. As there were no roads and the common means of travel was by boat, the lots on the waterfront were the most highly prized. Land which could not be reached by water was gladly exchanged for a much smaller quantity on the bay.

Almost all of this early group arrived practically destitute. Blankets they had none and their clothes were tattered. With dull axes which they could not sharpen, they made their clearances. They had no seed or but a handful to sow between the stumps. Their staples were the government rations of flour and pork, but fish and wild food were extremely plentiful. The Indians taught them to prepare skins, make maple sugar, and snare rabbits. Thread was made from basswood bark and clothing from deerskin. Children often spent the winter indoors for lack of footwear. However, in spite of these early hardships, within a few years they were well established and prosperous. Their worst experience was the total failure of their crop in 1787. This unfortunately coincided with the termination of the rations from the government. They had had no time to accumulate any surplus of grain, and their situation during the ensuing winter was desperate. Whole farms were offered for as little as fifty pounds of flour, and refused. Soup bones were passed from family to family, and the few animals they had acquired were slaughtered. This year was to be remembered for generations as the "Hungry Year".

Goods were exchanged by barter only, or they wrote I.O.U's on small slips of paper that passed everywhere at face value. The earliest settlers had no means of producing wealth. Their markets were their own tables, the next concession, or nearest military post. Potash was their first source of ready money, followed by grain and pork. Saw and grist mills were soon established, first at Niagara, then at Napanee, Kingston, and York, the miller exacting a toll of one twelfth.

The United Empire Loyalists

Governor John Graves Simcoe felt that nothing would contribute to stability and loyalty like an aristocracy built of half-pay officers, leading merchants, and landed proprietors. Upon these men fell the honors Simcoe could bestow -- legislative councillors, lieutenants of counties, and magistrates. He would have created hereditary titles, estates, coats of arms, and permanent seats in the legislative council.

At Lord Dorchester's instance, a minute had been passed by the Executive Council on November 9, 1789, directing the Land Boards of the different districts to register the names of those who had joined the royal standard in America before

the Treaty of Separation of 1783. The Land Boards took but little interest, and Simcoe revived it by his proclamation dated at York on April 6, 1796 which directed magistrates to immediately ascertain under oath and register the names of such persons as were entitled to special distinction and land grants by reason of their cleaving to the King's cause. Such individuals were to be known as "United Empire Loyalists", and as a mark of distinction they and their descendants were to be entitled to use the letters "U.E." after their names. Copies of this list are to be found in the Department of Crown Lands of the Province of Ontario, in Toronto.

The Family Compact

Simcoe's efforts to encourage an aristocracy did not fall entirely on stony soil. A certain coterie who were quite amenable to the idea gravitated to the seat of government at York (Toronto), where they formed the nucleus of a clique later opprobriously dubbed the "Family Compact". They acquired large land holdings and a practical monopoly of all government offices, dispensing favors to their relatives and friends, and even influencing the courts in a very high-handed manner. This group and their family connections dominated society and ultimately controlled all banking and large business activities, forming a definitely privileged group. This state of affairs grew so aggravated that it finally precipitated the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837, and the subsequent investigation by the British Government and legislation to prevent such abuses.

Land Grants and Titles

As early as July of 1783, in order to encourage loyalists in the United States to take up and improve lands in the then Province of Quebec (at that time the whole country was called "Quebec" or "Canada"), the Governor-in-Chief, General Haldemand, was instructed by the King "to direct the Surveyor General to admeasure and lay out such quantity of land as he deemed necessary for that purpose and to allot such parts thereof as might be applied for by any of his loyal subjects, non-commissioned officers, and private men in the following proportions, that is to say:

> To every master of a family, one hundred acres, and fifty acres for each person of which his family shall consist.
>
> To every single man fifty acres.
>
> To every non-commissioned officer in Quebec, two hundred acres.
>
> To every private man of the force, one hundred acres and every person in his family, fifty acres."

It was under this system that the drawings took place in 1784. In addition, every Loyalist field officer was to receive 1000 acres, every chaplain 700, and every subaltern, staff or warrant officer 500 acres. The excess over the ordinary allotment was not to be in one block, and not more than 200 acres were to be drawn by one person in a front concession (one fronting on the water).

These regulations prevailed until superseded by instructions of a similar character issued in 1786, authorizing an additional grant of 200 acres to each

As has been described, the original locations were decided by chance. A certificate was issued setting forth that at the end of twelve months, the holder should be entitled to a deed and become the possessor of his land with power to dispose of it at will. Now, if the original grantee had held his land secure until the patent was handed him, no confusion would have ensued. But as soon as the allotments were made in 1784 and certificates issued, barter and exchange began. Some settlers were compelled by sheer necessity to sell or mortgage a portion of their lands. So, under these unsafe conditions of title, property was constantly changing hands. The Land Boards, constituted in 1788, attempted to check land speculation, which had made its appearance even at that early date, by issuing all new certificates subject to the condition that if not actually settled within a year, the land would be forfeit. They were also not transferrable without the sanction of the Board.

These regulations were but a rude attempt to maintain a proper system of registration. The exchanges, purchases, and mortgaging went on unchecked, and for ten years the only foundation of title was the original certificate or a scrap of paper that had at some time taken its place. Sincoe found that scarcely a grant had been ratified, and that there seemed to be a disposition in many persons to deny the necessity of the exchange of the certificates for patents.

By 1795 land speculation was rife. Parliament then provided for the compulsory registry of all deeds, mortgages, wills, and transfers, and at that time patents were made available. When the patents were finally issued, they were issued to the present holders of the land, and not to the original possessors under the Land Board certificates, many of whom had long since departed.

Despite the new regulation, many were in no hurry to register their title, nor the deeds or wills under which they had acquired title. The registration fee for a Crown patent was £4.9s. 6d., and they were seemingly content with their original "location tickets", their home-drawn deeds, bills of sale, and wills, with which to establish title if need be. It is clear that in many cases they finally did register their title only in anticipation of death or the sale of the property. Even thereafter, title breaks in the records are frequent and unexplained.

From the original survey maps, preserved in the Department of Crown Lands of the Province of Ontario, we know the names of the persons to whom the land was originally allotted, but who owned any given piece of property on any given date thereafter, or what property any individual may have owned at any specific time, is by no means clear or certain from the existing records of the County Registry Office. It is particularly unfortunate for our purposes that the date of registration of a piece of property bears no necessary relationship to the date on which it was acquired and often tells us nothing as to how it was acquired.

The land records are to be found in the County Registry Office at Napanee, Ontario. Lists of original Crown Patentees are also available in the Department of Crown Lands of the Province of Ontario, in Toronto.

settler "who by his conduct had given proof of his loyalty, decent deportment, and thrift in improving the land already received by him as to warrant the presumption that he would become a good and profitable subject".

In November of 1785 the Governor-general further ordered that 200 acres be assigned the sons and daughters of all Loyalists upon their attaining the full age of twenty-one years.

Territorial Divisions

In July of 1788 that part of the then "Province of Quebec", which was later to be called Upper Canada or Canada West, was divided into four districts, namely: Lunenburg, from the Ottawa River to Gananoque; Mecklenburg, from Gananoque to the River Trent; Nassau, from the Trent to Long Point; and Hesse, from Long Point to Lake St. Clair. These names soon gave way to the more acceptable English titles, Eastern District, Midland District, Home District and Western District, respectively. In each District a "Land Board" was appointed to receive and act upon applications for land grants.

In 1791 the Province of Quebec was divided into Lower and Upper Canada, the latter being divided into counties with the appointment of County Land Boards to supersede the District Land Boards. The County Boards were in turn abolished in 1794, and district magistrates thereafter dealt with allotments of small areas of 200 acres, the Governor and Council dealing with all petitions for large grants.

The Langhorn Records

The Synod office of the Anglican Church at Kingston, Ontario has in its possession the original record of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials performed by the Rev. John Langhorn, an Episcopal missionary to the Bay of Quinte district between the years 1787 and 1813. He labored in the township of Fredericksburg and was paid a salary of £150 a year by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In the district there were three or four log huts wherein at various points Mr. Langhorn met his parishioners.

These records are probably the oldest existing Protestant church records in Canada, and they are of particular importance because of the unique position which the Anglican Church held in this new community. The Church of England had been declared to be the "established church" of the new province, and one seventh of all unassigned crown lands (the "Clergy Reserves") were set aside for the support of that church. Only its ministers could legally perform the marriage ceremony. Despite these land grants and the moral support and preferred treatment given to the Church of England by the Governor and Council, (who openly regarded other faiths with suspicion), the missionary efforts of other churches proved more persuasive. By 1798 it was no longer necessary to have a marriage performed by an Anglican clergyman in order to have it legal, but for the first fourteen years that had been the rule. Thereafter there were many defections, particularly to the Methodists who became the dominant group in point of numbers. Initially, a large part of the community had apparently by choice or necessity been Anglican. For this reason, these records contain numerous entries of interest to us.

Spelling and Education

A hundred and fifty years ago, there was little standardized spelling, at least as far as surnames were concerned. Hence the occurrence of several variations in the spelling of a name does not mean that they refer to different individuals. James Forsher's name was spelled Forayer, Foyer, Foryuir, Foryuar, Foyuar by different persons. He even varied it himself on occasion when signing documents, in order to conform with the spelling used by the drafter of the document.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

It should also be recognized that the first settlers had for some years been without schools, and whatever instruction had been given was by the parents to their children in the intervals of work.

The Huguenots

The Huguenots were French Protestants. In 1572, due to the machinations of Catherine de Medici, a massacre of the Huguenots took place on St. Bartholomew's Day - some 30,000 to 70,000 being slaughtered without warning.

In 1598 the Protestant Henry IV proclaimed the Edict of Nantes, granting religious tolerance to the Huguenots and permitting them to hold public office and other equal rights. In 1685 Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes, whereupon some 400,000 Huguenots, "the most intelligent and industrious element in the land", fled the country. They settled down in Protestant countries, mainly Holland and Great Britain, and were an acquisition to whatever country they went. Large numbers emigrated to America about 1700.

The Palatines

These people were from the southwest part of Germany. In 1685, Louis XIV married his mistress, Madame de Maintenon, who was completely in the hands of the Jesuits. As part of his program of harassing the Protestants, which she instigated, Louis invaded the Palatinate in 1688. Thousands of these Palatines fled to Holland, and to England on the invitation of William of Orange. Thence many came to America about 1700. They are sometimes referred to as "Palatine Germans" and sometimes as "Dutch", the latter quite erroneous. The confusion probably arose as a result of the fact that many had lived in Holland for a few years before their final emigration to America.

----- * -----

The material presented above consists chiefly of information pertinent to what follows. I hope it will prove helpful to an understanding of some of the record material, and particularly the land records. It makes no pretense of supplying an adequate historical background. For this, the following books are suggested:

Herrington:	A History of the County of Lennox & Addington
Scott:	John Graves Simcoe
Cameiff:	A History of the Province of Ontario
Sabine:	Loyalists of the American Revolution
Beard:	A History of the United States

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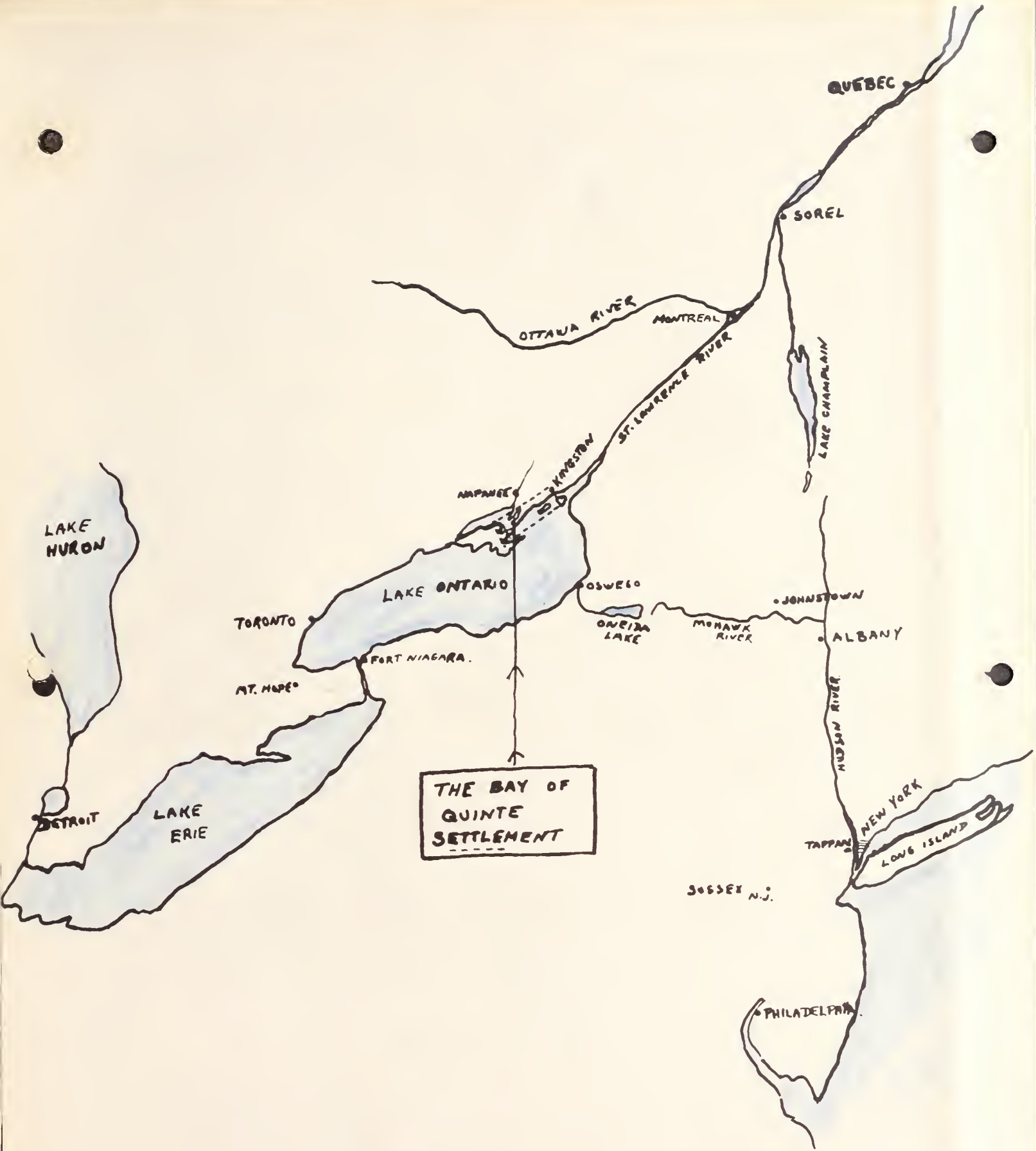
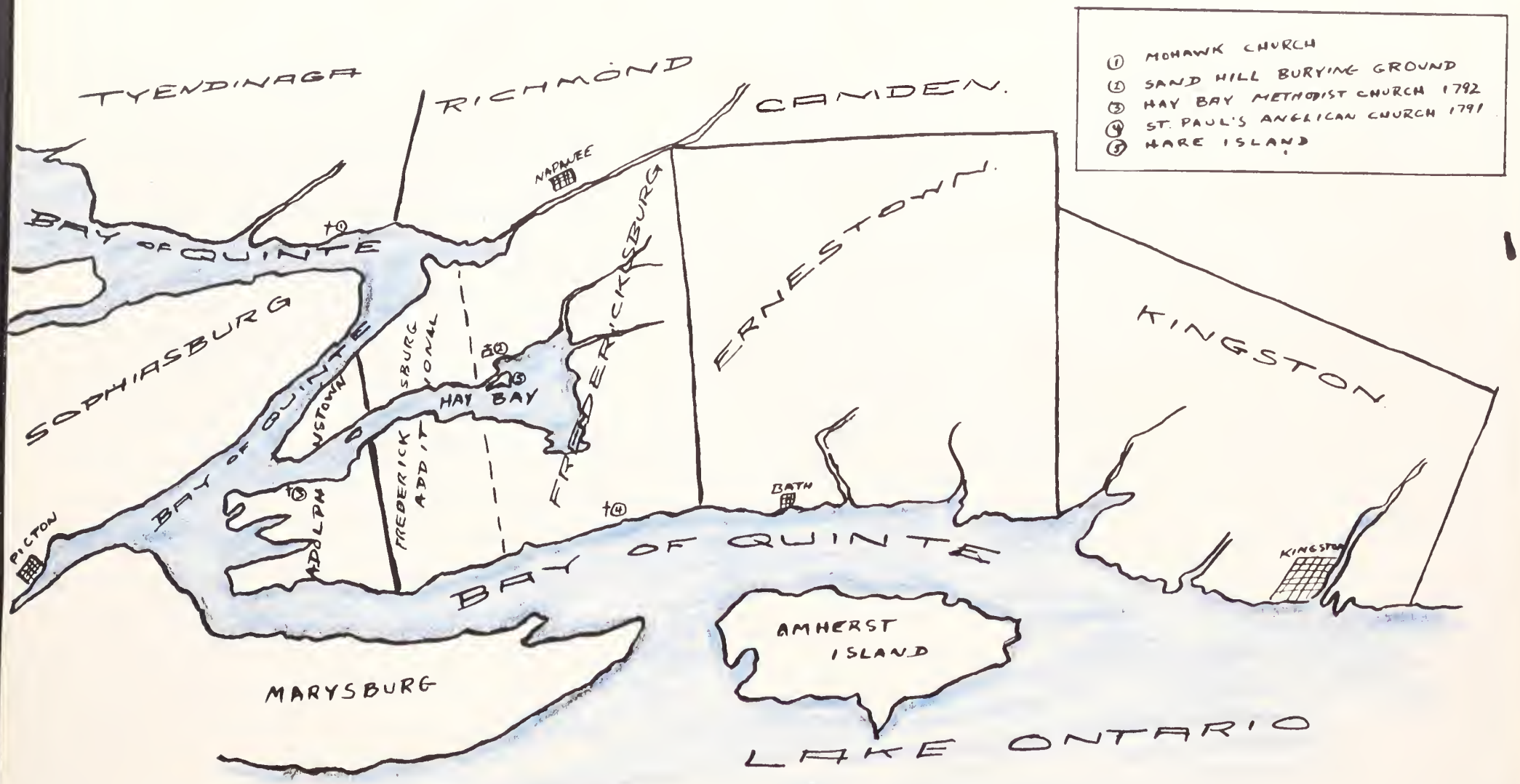
[illegible]

[illegible]


QUEBEC
SOREL
OTTAWA RIVER
MONTREAL
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER
LAKE CHAMPLAIN
KINGSTON
NAPANEE
LAKE HURON
LAKE ONTARIO
OSWEGO
JOHNSTOWN
TORONTO
ONEIDA LAKE
MOHAWK RIVER
ALBANY
FORT NIAGARA.
MT. HOPE
HUDSON RIVER
THE BAY OF QUINTE SETTLEMENT
DETROIT
LAKE ERIE
NEW YORK
TAPPAN
LONG ISLAND
SUSSEX N.J.
PHILADELPHIA.


① MOHAWK CHURCH
② SAND HILL BURYING GROUND
③ HAY BAY METHODIST CHURCH 1792
④ ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 1791
⑤ HARE ISLAND
TYENDINAGA
RICHMOND
CAMDEN.
ERNESTOWN.
KINGSTON
NAPANEE
BAY OF QUINTE
SOPHIASBURG
BAY OF QUINTE
HAY BAY
FREDERICKSBURG
ADOLPHUSTOWN
FREDERICKSBURG ADDITIONAL
PICTON
BATH
KINGSTON
BAY OF QUINTE
AMHERST ISLAND
MARYSBURG
LAKE ONTARIO

THE FORSHEE FAMILY

In 1934 my grandfather, James Peter Wilson, a grandson of James Forshee and then eighty-five years old, recounted to me all that he remembered and had been told about the Forshee branch of his family. The earliest Forshee of whom he had any knowledge was his grandfather James. He had been told that his grandfather had come to Canada after the American Revolutionary War at the age of nineteen, and that he had brought with him six negro slaves. He had no factual information as to James Forshee's birthplace, the place from whence he had come to Canada, the names of any of his antecedents, or their occupations.

It seemed to me odd that a young man of nineteen would strike off alone and particularly strange that at his age he would be possessed of six negroes, who even at that period were worth upwards of a thousand dollars apiece. Nevertheless, Grandfather had apparently been left with the impression that he was unaccompanied by any relatives, and I suppose had assumed that the negroes had belonged to his family in the United States. He did know that James Forshee was in some manner related to the Lazlers and Demarests, two of the original Loyalist families in the community. This relationship was also known to a Lazier descendent then living in the town of Napanee, and furthermore it must have antedated James Forshee's emigration to Canada since there was no intermarriage with either of these families thereafter.

He showed me where James Forshee was buried at Dead Hill, near his farm in the township of Fredericksburg, and we noted that James had died March 18, 1853 at the age of 85. This would seem to indicate that he was born in 1767 or 1768.

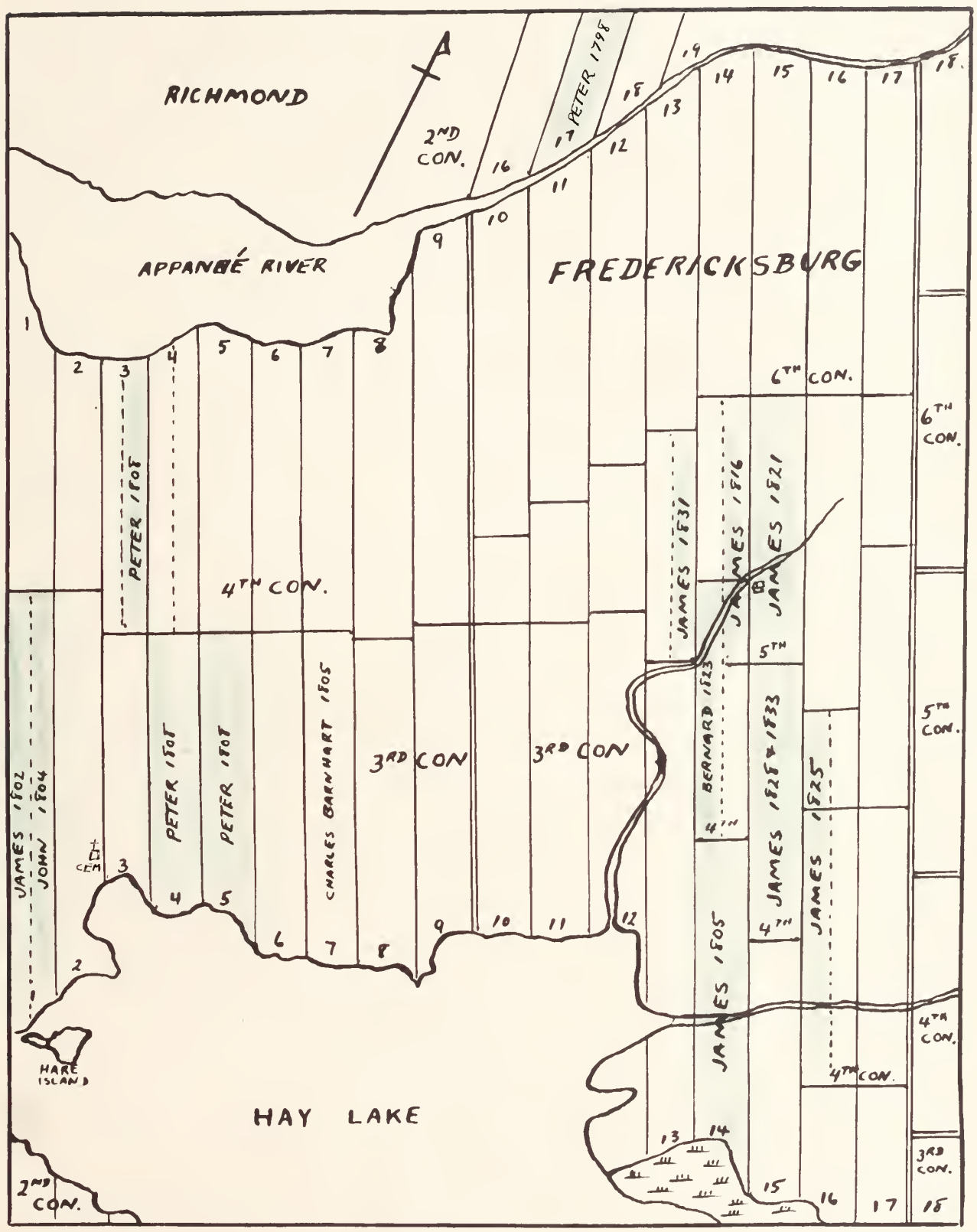
One of the stories that Grandfather had told me was to the effect that during the early days in Canada there had been a complete crop failure and that James was one of a party who went around the eastern end of Lake Ontario in small boats in order to purchase flour at Oswego. (Oswego was at that time still garrisoned and held by the British.) Apparently it remained a matter of family pride that, while the other members of the party bought black flour for their negroes and white for themselves, he had bought white flour for all. This trip clearly took place during "The Hungry Year" of 1787-1788 and confirms James Forshee's presence during the earliest days of the settlement, the first settlers having arrived in June of 1784. It also suggests that he was better off than most of his neighbors, the vast majority of whom had practically no money. Currency was very scarce.

So far we have established that in all likelihood James Forshee arrived in Canada and the Bay of Quinte district before the summer of 1788, and that he was in some manner related to the Lazier and Demarest families.

---- * ----

My grandfather mentioned to me no Forshees other than James and his descendents.

On going to the County Registry Office in Napanee in order to verify James' alleged possession of three thousand acres of land and to locate this property, I was surprised to encounter the names of several other Forshees - Peter, John, Bernard, James J., Archibald B., and Cyrenius.



PART OF THE TOWNSHIPS
OF
RICHMOND AND FREDERICKSBURG.
CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT
MONTREAL OCT. 1841.

The following is from the original list of Crown Patentees in the County Registry Office at Napanee. (The earliest Crown Patents are dated 1796.)

Township	Concession	Lot	Acres	Name	Date of Patent
Camden	II	27	200	Peter Ferayer	Dec 31st 1796
		26	200	Peter Ferayner	May 24th 1803
	III	28	200	John Ferabee	Dec 31st 1796
	IV	24	200	James Ferayer	Nov 4th 1803
		27	200	James Ferayer	Nov 4th 1803
Richmond	II	17	200	Peter Ferayer	Dec 31st 1796
Fredericksburg	III	½ of 1	100	John Ferayuir	Sept 12th 1804
		½ of 1	100	James Ferabee	Jan 19th 1837*
		4	200	Peter Ferayer	Feb 24th 1808
		5	200	Peter Ferayer	Feb 24th 1808
		14	200	James Ferayer	Sept 26th 1803
	IV	N½ of 3	41	Peter Ferayer	Feb 24th 1808

*The list of Crown Patentees in the Department of Crown Lands in Toronto states that this property, the west half of lot 1, was granted to James Ferabee Nov 25th 1802.

The original survey maps bearing the names of the original grantees clearly indicate that the Richmond and Fredericksburg property was initially granted to others, so that they were not original settlers.

The Richmond property was originally owned by one Peters who had got a "location ticket" in 1787. With the permission of the land transfer authorities, he sold it to Peter Ferayer July 27th 1790, the witnesses being Charles Barnhart and John Bean. This land is located on the north shore of the Napanee River about two miles west of the town of Napanee.

The Toronto list of Crown Patentees indicates that Charles Barnhart received grants to the E ½ of lot 19 in the II Concession of Fredericksburg Dec 1st 1802 and to all of lot 7 in the III Concession of Fredericksburg June 3rd 1805.

The Richmond property bought by Peter in 1790 and registered by him in 1795 was sold by James. The east half was sold in 1837 for £100, the west half in 1848 for £250. How James acquired it from Peter is not stated.

The Camden property granted to Peter and James was all sold by James between 1824 and 1843 with no indication as to how James acquired the land granted to Peter.

Half of the Camden property granted to John was sold by James J. Forshee in 1836 and the balance by Archibald B. Forshee in 1841, with no indication as to how the sellers had acquired it.

The Fredericksburg property is more interesting because this is the location in which they actually lived, the other property undoubtedly having been acquired for speculative purposes.

Lot number 1 in the 3rd Concession of Fredericksburg (see map) was originally granted to others, but the west half (100 acres) was acquired by James on or before Nov 25th 1802 when he first received a Crown grant. In some unspecified manner, two thirds of it had been acquired by Frederick Post who willed it to Mary Post et al April 20 1831. The will (witnessed by James) was registered March 2nd 1832. James apparently got another Crown grant to the same land in Jan 19th 1835. He deeded the whole 100 acres to Milo Park on June 20th 1837, the consideration being £ 225.

The east half of this same lot was acquired by John on or before Sept 12th 1804 when he received a Crown grant. On Jan 19th 1809 John Forshee et ux deeded it to Peter Forshee for £200. This deed was registered Mar 7th 1826 obviously in order to establish title prior to its sale to one Andrew Davis on Mar 20th 1826.

The deed indicates the sellers to be "John Forshee, yeoman and Sarah his wife".

It was registered as follows:

"Witnesseth by James Forshee, Peter Bernhart and Margaret Forshee all of Fredericksburg and is required to be registered by me Peter Forshee heir at Law to Peter Forshee deceased, the grantee aforesaid pursuant to the statute in that case made and provided. In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal March 7th 1826.

Signed James Forshee
Isaac Fraser Peter Forshee"

"The Execution of the above Memorial and of Deed to which it relates was duly proved before me 7th day of Mar 1826 by the oath of James Forshee of Fredericksburg, gentleman, one of the subscribing witnesses

Isaac Fraser
Dep'y Registrar"

Lot number 4 in the 3rd Concession of Fredericksburg was granted to a Peter Fosyer by Crown deed on Feb 24th 1808, he presumably having established ownership.

On July 8th 1822 it was deeded by James (with no indication as to how he had acquired it) to John Forshee, the consideration being £100. This deed was registered Jan 22nd 1830 as follows:

> "Which Deed of Bargans and Sale is witnessed by Cyrenens Forshee and Jacob Quackenbush - - - - required to be registered by me James Forshee the grantor in the said Deed - - - - Jan 21st 1830.
>
> Witnesses
>
> Andrew Quackenbush
> Jacob Quackenbush James Forshee"

The west half was sold by Archibald B. Forshee to Peter Quackenbush Nov 14th 1839 for £300. On the same date "James J. Forshee yeoman and Jane his wife" sold the east half to Peter Quackenbush for £350.

Lot number 5 in the 3rd Concession of Fredericksburg was granted to a Peter Fosyer on the same date that he registered title to lot number four. The west half was deeded by Alex Ross to John Clapp July 7th 1809 for £100. James had acquired it by May 6 1840 when he deeded the whole 200 acres to Thomas Herns for £500.

The E ½ of Lot 3 in the 4th Concession of Fredericksburg was deeded to a Peter Fosyer on Feb 24th 1808 the same date on which he registered lots 4 and 5 in the third concession (see above). The west half was granted to Cyrenius Park. James Park sold part of it to Bernard Forsher for £20 in May of 1842. Five months later Bernard Forsher sold it (17 acres) to a John Mount for £34.

Lot number 14 in the 3rd Concession of Fredericksburg was granted to James on Sept 26th 1805. He sold it off in pieces between 1811 and 1837.

Who were these other Forshees, and were they related to James? It is a pity that they did not register their wills or more of their deeds. It is a pity that there were few inscribed tombstones prior to 1850 and that there are no existing plans of early cemeteries showing the occupants of the graves. There are no Forshee family Bibles or papers known to me.

Judging from the apparent dates of acquisition and disposal of the various properties they owned, a "Peter Forshee" seemed to have been as old or older than James, and a "John Forshee" and a "Bernard Forshee" appeared to have been of about the same age as James. Similarly, a "James J. Forshee" and an "Archibald B. Forshee", who disposed of property which they had presumably inherited from "John Forshee", appeared to be of the next generation. All seemed to be closely related inasmuch as they frequently bought, sold and apparently inherited land among themselves. These Registry Office record entries regarding these "other Forshees" extended over the period 1795 to 1842 and then disappeared.

Due to the incompleteness of early land records and the casual attitude toward the registration of titles which prevailed at that time (as discussed elsewhere) and in the absence of any registered deeds or wills, it was impossible to arrive at any conclusions or even reasonable conjectures as to just how these people may have been related to each other.

---- * ----

Looking through old letters and documents in the Lennox and Addington Historical Society, I encountered a letter written Aug 31st 1827 which mentioned that "Sarah Post, formerly Sarah Forshee, died about a week since in childbed". A surveyor's note book contained the following entry "Oct 28th 1829 - struck Clarksville (just south and east of Napanee A.C.W.) Post N. side of village a few rods E. of Forshee's tavern". A deed drawn on March 28th 1823 was witnessed by "Cyrenius Forshee" and "Bernard Forshee".

---- * ----

A gravestone near that of James Forshee indicated that John, the infant son of Cyrenius and Amanda Forshee, had died in 1831.

---- * ----

On questioning my grandfather about these "other Forshees", I found that he knew nothing about them except for a vague recollection that a John Forshee might have been a brother of his grandfather, James. Several years previously, he had shown me a photo of a marriage record of 1792, which was included in a genealogy of the Bogart family, one of the witnesses being a "John Fonyuer". He really did not know how or whether this man was a relative.

---- * ----

In 1935 my father and I called on a Mrs. Jeanette Roubough (nee Barnhart) who was then living in the vicinity of Napanee, and very alert at the age of 87. She told us that she herself was a Forshee and related to the family of James Forshee (my father recalled that she had told him this twenty-five years previously), and further that she had been named for Jeanette Forshee, the daughter of James Forshee. She did not know how she was related to the Forshees and realized that it could not have been through descent from James Forshee. She had never heard of any of the other above mentioned Forshees.

A more recent and complete search of the county Registry Office records turned up a deed registered in 1828 by a "Peter Forshee" who is described as "Peter Forshee heir-at-law to Peter Forshee deceased". This deed, drawn in 1809, transferred some land from John Forshee to Peter Forshee and was witnessed by James Forshee who also swore to its validity when it was registered in 1828. This introduced <u>another</u> Peter, whose identity and relationship was unknown.

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The Marriage Register of St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburg.

No. 2.

No. 26.) Banns of Marriage between Jacobus Forsyuar of St. Cuthbert's, Fredericksburg, and Margaret Mordoff of St. Paul's, Fredericksburg, were published on July 1, 8th and 16th 1798 by me John Langhorn, Episcopal Missionary.—

Jacobus Forsyuar of Fredericksburg in the county of Lenox, Upper Canada, Bachelor; and Margaret Mordoff also of Fredericksburg in the county and Province aforesaid, Spinster, were married in this Church by Banns this twenty third Day of July in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninety eight by me;

John Langhorn, Missionary.—

This Marriage was solemnized in the presence of us,

Jacobus Forshee
Margaret her + mark Mordoff

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

Jacobus Forshee
Margaret her + mark Mordoff

John Mordoff
Duncan Bell
Charles Sharnhard

Record of the Marriage of James Forshee and Margaret Mordoff

A record of the marriages, baptisms, and burials performed by the Rev. John Langhorn, an Episcopal Missionary to the district between the years 1787 and 1813 has survived. During the early days in Upper Canada, the Church of England was the "established church" and had a large following.

The Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran Churches, however, soon appeared in the community, and there seem to have been many defections in their favor with the result that only the earlier children of several families were baptized under the auspices of the Anglican Church. Fortunately, the Langhorn records include important factual data regarding James, John and Bernard and their earlier children.

These records introduce us to another contemporary of these men in the person of "Catharina Fogymar" who married in February of 1789, and also introduce a considerably younger Forshee named Anny who was married in 1810. We also hear again of Sarah Forshee who, poor girl, seems to have been married but five months before her unfortunate death.

Data from the Langhorn Records relating to persons named Forshee. ~~These records were kept by the Rev. John Langhorn, an Episcopal Missionary to the District between 1787 and 1813.~~

"The Marriage Register of St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburg" includes:

> An entry indicating that "Charles Barnhart and Catharina Fogymar of St. Cuthberts in the 3rd Township of Cataraqueo called Fredericksburg" were married by banns published on February 1st, 8th and 15th 1789. One of the witnesses was "James Fogymar".
>
> The record of the marriage of Jacobus Foraymar and Margaret Mordoff in 1798 (see photo). Note that the witnesses included Barnard Forshee and Charles Barnhart.
>
> An entry indicating that George Mordoff and Anny Forshee were married by banns published Aug 19th, 26th and Sept 2nd 1810.
>
> The record of the marriage of Abraham Bogert and Mary Lazier in 1792 was witnessed by "John Fogymar".

"A Registry of Baptisms for the Township of Fredericksburg being the third Township of Cataraqueo" which is now called Kingston in the Province of Quebec."

"Baptisms in 1790

> "Samuel son of Charles and Katreen Barnhart of Fredericksburg was baptized Oct 3rd.

"Baptisms in 1792

> "Peter son of Charles and Catarina Barnhart of Fredericksburg was baptized July 8th.

"Baptisms in 1796

> "Peter son of John and Sarah Fogymar of Fredericksburg was baptized February 22nd.

"Baptisms in 1799

"Mary daughter of John and Sarah Forayuar of Fredericksburg was baptised Jan 20th.

"Mary daughter of Jacobus and Margaret Forayuar of Fredericksburg was baptised July 21st.

"Baptisms in 1801

"Elizabeth daughter of John and Sarah Forshee of Fredericksburg was baptised Feb 16th.

"Baptisms in 1802

"Nancy daughter of Jacobus and Margaret Forshee of Fredericksburg was baptised ~~May 29th~~. Feb 14th
- Mary daughter of Barnard and Elizabeth Forshee of Fredericksburg was baptized May 25th

From later records of the Anglican Church:

"6th March 1827 Frederick Post and Sarah Forshee both of Fredericksburg were married by me this day by bans

John Stoughton

Peter Post
Eynard Quackenbush
Witnesses

More specifically, we learn that James Forshee married Margaret Mordoff of the same community on July 23rd 1795, the witnesses including "Barnard Forshee" and Charles Barnhart. Their first child named Mary was baptised in July 1799. A second child named Nancy was baptised in February 1802. (None of the later children, Peter, Catharine, Lucy, Jeanette, or Allen, were baptised by Rev. Langhorn).

Regarding Catharine Forshee, we learn that she married Charles Barnhart in February 1789, James "Forayuar" being one of the witnesses. (Mr. Langhorn had spelled her name "Forayuar".) Their first child called Samuel was baptised in Oct 1790. A second child called Peter was baptised in July 1792. (A third son, John, born in 1794 was not baptised by Mr. Langhorn.)

John Forshee was not married by Mr. Langhorn (perhaps his wife lived in another parish), but we find that his wife's name was Sarah and that a son Peter was baptised in Feb 1796, a daughter Mary in Jan 1799, and a daughter Elizabeth in Feb 1801.

Bernard Forshee and Elizabeth were also not married by Rev. Mr. Langhorn, but their daughter Mary was baptised in May 1802.

These marriage dates and the dates on which these people were having children provided me with the first definite indications as to the probable ages of these individuals. It was obvious that they were very probably all within a few years of each other in age.

The absence of any marriage record for Peter or the baptism of any children of his would be consistent with a theory that he was older than the others.

These records also explain how Mrs. Rombough was a Forshee, Catharine Forshee having been her grandmother. It also provides a basis for her claimed relationship to James Forshee and his family. If she was in fact related to James, then James and Catharine Forshee must have been related.

----- " -----

From what place in the United States had James Forshee come? Grandfather thought that he had come from Virginia but admitted that he had no recollection that he had been definitely told so. His arguments for this theory were quite unsubstantial and as follows: there is a Lake Forshee in Virginia; there are Forshees still living in Virginia; James Forshee brought negro slaves with him to Canada. This theory of his seemed to me to have more romantic appeal than validity. Several circumstances pointed in another direction.

In the first place, the vast majority of the original Bay of Quinte settlers came from New York State, and particularly the area around New York City. Among these were the Lasiers and Demarests to whom he was in some manner related. There were none from Virginia or such far removed places. Indeed the habitable possibilities of the area were not well known even to the British authorities in New York. They had had to inquire of a Captain Grass, who had been a prisoner of the French at Fort Frontenac during the French and Indian War (1756-1763) as to whether it was possible for people to live there, before arranging for the transportation of the original Loyalist group. It is possible but unlikely that anyone from Virginia would ever have heard of the place, let alone go there.

What my grandfather apparently did not know was that there were also numerous Forshees in the vicinity of New York, and that negro slaves were common in that locality at that time. Major Van Alstine, the leader of the Adolphustown party of Loyalists, brought eleven negroes to Canada with him and the Bogert family also brought a few. Both of these families are known to have come from near New York.

In further support of the New York origin of the Forshee family is the following interesting story. I should first say that my grandfather's mother had obviously been at some pains to impress upon him that her father, James Forshee, had been a man of superior talents. Among other things, she had told him that her father had understood "plain and transverse sailing" and trigonometry. (I have since learned that what was meant was "plane and traverse" sailing, a method of navigation involving the use of tables, much used by coastwise shipping.) Quite

independent of this statement and only then reminded by my father, my grandfather told me that when he was a very young boy, an old man named Barnhart (undoubtedly the Charles Barnhart who appears in this account) told him that he (Barnhart) had once seen the father of James Forshee in New York harbor, wearing a naval uniform and a sword. He described him as the captain of a ship, a tall stern man with scars on his face, who looked like a pirate.

Charles Barnhart had been a soldier in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, a volunteer regiment of Loyalists. He was roughly the same age as James Forshee, and probably somewhat older.

If the Forshee family did not live thereabouts as neighbors of the Barnharts, how would Barnhart know this "ship captain" when he saw him, or have any interest in him, or remember anything about having seen him in such a capacity?

On the assumption that James Forshee may well have come to Canada from the vicinity of New York City, I visited the genealogical division of the New York Public Library and made some interesting discoveries.

The English equivalents of many of the names in the records which follow, are:

Jan	-	John
Johannes	-	John
Barent	-	Bernard
Jacobus	-	James
Katrenn	-	Catherine
Jannetje	-	Jane
Cherritje	-	Charity

In 1876 the Rev. David Cole of Hackensack, New Jersey published a genealogy of the Cole family which gives every evidence of being a most thorough and reliable piece of work. Inasmuch as two Forshee brothers married two of the Coles about 1791, several pages were devoted to the Forshee family. The sources of information are stated to have included family registers and the church records of Tappan, Clarkstown and Kakiat.

I quote: "Traditions say that the first American ancestors came to this country as a result of religious persecution in France not far from the year 1700. There is a tradition in the family that a far back ancestor bore the name of Jan; that he followed the sea; that he lived to the great age of 110 and in his 110th year walked one day twelve miles with a grandson and proved himself the better walker of the two.

"The original name we think was Forsieur. Other orthographies which abound represent attempts at rendering this French name into Dutch or English.

"The first positive date I have with the name Forseur is that of a birth taken from the family records. Johannes Forseur was baptised at Tappan Jan 15, 1733. The same record gives his date of death at Kakiat April 21, 1818. Was this the grandson who walked? If so, who was the intermediate link?

"There is a will still in the possession of the family drawn up by one John Forseur who names his 'wife Elizabeth', his children Jane (wife of Daniel Perry), Peter, Barent, Johannes and the children of his son William (deceased).

"The will finds the family in Harrington, N. J. at the middle of the last century. About that time they moved to Kakiat. A large farm at the latter place became from that date the residence of several generations of Forshees."

Unfortunately Mr. Cole did not give the date of the will, but presumably it was somewhere near 1775 or a little later. He was convinced that the Johannes named in the will was the grandson who walked, and the same man who was born Jan 15, 1733, the intermediate link being Jan, the author of the will.

He thus reconstructs the following line:

I Jan Forseur who lived to 110 years.
II Jan Forseur who had children Jane, Peter, Barent, Johannes and William.
III Johannes b. Jan 15, 1733 d. April 21, 1815.
IV Bernard and Cornelius Forshee who married Anna and Elizabeth Cole.

It would be reasonable to assume that the first of these was born about 1670 and the second about 1700.

In the New York Historical Society I also found some very early baptism and marriage records of Dutch Reformed Churches located in Tappan, N. Y. and the vicinity of Hackensack, N. J.

These proved most interesting in two respects. First, there were numerous people by the name of Forshee (or one of its more than thirty variants) in that general vicinity in the early seventeen hundreds, and they were all extremely partial to the names John, Peter, Jacobus (James), Catherine and Barent (Bernard). Second, several of the Forshees mentioned were intermarried with families of the same names as many of the Bay of Quinte Loyalists.

Actually, the Tappan church records looked almost like a roster of the early Bay of Quinte settlers - Switzer, Hering, Gerow, Gordanier, Mabee, Trumpour, Clark, Hatan, Cole, Quackenbush, Bogert, Perry, Post, Demarest, Lazier and a host of others.

From the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Schraalenburg (near Englewood and Hackensack, New Jersey):

Aug 8 1731 Johannes Ratan
Parents Paulus Ratan Elizabeth Fechier
Witnesses Abram Ratan Catharina Ratan

Jan 21 1738 Maritjen
Parents Jacob Fescheur Isaaya Jacobs
Witnesses Paulus Ratan and wife

Feb 20 1763 Jacob and Barent (twins)
Parents Pieter Vasie and wife
Witnesses Jacob Lasier and wife Barent Vasie and wife

Oct 4 1764 Peter Kwalenbos
Parents Kwalenbos (= Quackenbush A.S.N.)
Witnesses Peter Fassi and wife

Mar 15 1766 Katrena
Parents Peter Fasier and wife
Witnesses Jan Vasieur and wife

1774 Peter
Parents P. Fesier and Rebecka

Mar 21 1777 Isaac
Parents Jacob Fesyer and wife

Aug 24 1777 Elizabeth
Parents Barant Feschour and wife

Aug 31 1777 Jannetje
Parents Peter Fesour and wife

Dec 15 1782 Pieter
Parents P. Vasie and wife
Witnesses Picter Fasier and wife

Sept 18 1785 Cherritye
Parents Pieter Fesyour and wife
Witnesses Mich. Fasier and wife

July 7 1788 Barent
Parents Samuel Demarest and wife
Witnesses Barent Vassi and wife

Baptisms of an Irregular Congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church at Tappan
Existing from 1767-1778

(The name of the child is followed by the date of birth, the date of baptism, the names of the father, mother, and witnesses.)

Entry No.

8 Cathrina Fosjeur by Dominie Blasow Jan 13 1768 Feb 3
Wilm Fosjeur Elizabeth Blauvelt
Jan Fosjeur Cathrina Waldron

33 Jacobus Fosjeur by Dominie Rubel Mar 14 1769 April 11
Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier
Jacobus Lazier Marie Durie

65 Jan Fosjeur Aug 23 1771 Sept 15
Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier

88 Jan Fosjeur and his wife Elizabeth
witnessed a baptism on Mar 27 1774.

89 Gretje Fosjeur Mar 29 1774 April 10
Wilm Fosjeur Elizabeth Blauvelt
Cornelius Bogert Margrietje Blauvelt

121 Jannitji Fosjeur Mar 6 1776 April 6
Wilm Fosjeur Elizabeth Blauvelt
Daniel Perrie Jannitje Fosjeur

From the marriage records of the Reformed Church of Hackensack, New Jersey (12 miles from Tappan, New York).

"Peter Fosjeur young man lomat (*) Tappan
and Maria Lazier young woman lomat
Schraalenburg"

* "lomat" means "living at"

"Barent Forshee and Anna Cole June 22 1791"

From the records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kakiat (West Hempstead)
Rockland County, New York 1774-1864

Katrina born Oct 29 1789, baptised Nov 5 1789
Parents Jan Fosheur, Katrina Quackenbos

Barent born 1790
Parents Andries Debaun, Jannetje Forsheur

From the baptismal records of the Regular congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church at Tappan, New York.

Jacob Wiltsie and Abigail Fasour have

Peter	Nov 3 1767
Jacob	Dec 3 1769
Samuel	Dec 9 1771
James	Feb 22 1774

Will

Johannes Fyshour of Hempstead, New York. Dated Mar 22 1813
Probated Apr 25 1813. Mentions

sons John, Abram, Peter, Bornit, Cornelius
William, Samuel, Jonas, Daniel, Isaac

daughters Maritje, Lucy, Catherine, Mary

executors John, Abram, Jonas, Daniel

We cannot tell how the people involved in these entries were related, nor can we determine, for example, whether the various Peters listed as parents represent two, three, or four or more different individuals. For lack of more specific information as to the birthdates of our Forshees, we cannot definitely identify any of these entries with them. It is entirely likely that these records do not include all of the children in these families, nor all of the branches of the family.

Since James Forshee is known to have been related to the Larier and Demarest families, it is interesting to see these names appearing presumably in the role of relatives or close friends.

Though the Forshees were undoubtedly French Huguenots, they had probably lived in Holland for a few years before emigrating to America. This, together with the fact that they were then living in a predominantly Dutch community with Dutch clergy, is responsible for the Dutch forms given to their names.

A similarity of given names may appear to the uninitiated reader to constitute a rather tenuous argument on which to base a possible relationship, but it is a fact that names were passed down in families with great regularity. As will be developed later, this name similarity may be of more than usual significance in this particular family.

While I was unable to find any James Forshee born in 1767 or 1768 either in the above records or numerous others which I reviewed in the New York Historical Society, I was convinced that in all likelihood our James Forshee was a member of one of these families. Family genealogies put together almost two hundred years later by piecing together church records and family records are seldom complete. The author often has little interest in developing collateral lines. Nor do church records necessarily include all members or branches of a family.

The foregoing evidence was the basis for my belief that James Forshee came from the vicinity of Tappan, New York, and that his father was a ship's officer, if not a captain.

----- * -----

The next important development occurred in 1954 when I learned that Leonard T. Parks of Fredericksburg had some old family papers, mentioning the Forshees. He was a descendant of Cyrenius Parks, an original settler, a large landowner, the father of twenty children, and captain of the local militia. Cyrenius Parks's will, drawn in 1825, revealed that he had a daughter Sarah Forshee and a daughter Hannah Forshee. The Parks family bible, in the possession of Miss Elsie Parks, provided the additional information that Sarah was born in 1777 and Hannah in 1804. (The church records provide Forshee husbands for these women in the persons of John and an Alexander H. Forshee.)

The local militia was activated during the War of 1812 and apparently included able bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45. A Muster Roll dated July 7th, 1812 compiled by Cyrenius Parks indicates that at that time James Forshee was 45, John Forshee 43, and Bernard Forshee 40 years of age. A later list dated 1813 includes a Cyrenius Forshee who may have turned 16 in the interval. There is no Peter Forshee. Charles Barnhart was not listed, but he may well be presumed to have been over 45, since his son, Samuel, was then 22.

Among the Parks' family papers was a census of individuals owning teams of horses or oxen dated 1813, which included James, John and Bernard Forshee. Despite the fact that he had been a large landowner, Peter Forshee's name does not appear, which suggests that he probably died between the date of the last recorded land transaction in which he figured, in 1809, and the compiling of this census in 1813.

Copies of family papers in the possession of Leonard G. Parks
of the township of N. Fredericksburg, Ont.

Baltes Sheuman	38	George Nordoff	45
Barnard Forshee	40	Peter Parks	17
Peter Barnhart, Serjt.	20	James Parks	17
Henry Barth	21	Nath. Parks	20
Samuel Barnhart	22	William Parks	21
John Barnhart	18	Cyrenius Parks	19
Peter McCabe	30	John Parks	27
Henry McCabe	27	Archibald Parks	32
Henry StClear	43	Jacob Post	
Archibald Campbell	26	etc.	
Asa Eyrhart	23		
Abraham Fry	25		
John Forshee	43		
James Forshee	45		

A return of the strength of my company of Lenox Militia
7 July 1812.

Capts.	Lts.	Ens.	Serjts.	men above 40 years of age.	men 40 years to 16
1	1	1	2	5	23

Cyrenius Parks
Capt.

English Musket	French Musket
William Parks	Baltes Sheuman
G. Foshee	(8 other names)
(11 other names)	

John Jaynes S.)
John Jayens junr.) runaway

Henry SantClair)
George Nordoff) stayed at home
James Foshee)

(This memorandum was not dated)

The names of the men to serve as Minnit men in my company is

Archibald Parks	Henry StClear	Peter Parks
Cyrenius Forshee	John StClear	Samuel Parks
John Jaynes junr.	Amos Kitesom	Samuel Barnhart
Jacob Post	Nath. Parks	Benjamin (?)

Certifide by
Cyrs. Parks
Capt. L. Militia.

(This memorandum was not dated)

Names of the men to stand Draft for Kingston
15 May 1813

Archibald Parke 1
John Jaynes senor 2
John Jaynes junor 3
Cyrenius Forshee 4
Samuel Eyrhart 5
Henry StClear 6
John StClear 7
Nathl. Parke 8
Jacob Post 9
Isaac Post 10
Peter Park 11
Alex. Vanvolkenburg
George Wager
Amos Ritesen

---

the names of the men that done duty in Kingston

Capt. G Parke
Lusigne J. Benson
Serjt P Barnhart
Robert Nicholson
John Parke
Henry McCabe
James Forshee
Jacob Huffman
Henry Bartley
Abrm Fry
Peter Quackenbush
Wm. Parke
James Parke
Peter McCabe
Jacob Quackenbush
Archd Campbell
John Forshee

15 October 1813

An order to Capt. G Park 27 June 1812
to hold his men in readiness

An order 11 Mar 1813 Rec'd by Capt Parke
to see that four effective men viz from the
age of 18 to 45 do assemble at -----etc.

You, Samuel Barnhart, John Barnhart, Cyrenius Forshee, John Jaynes senr and John Jaynes junior and Henry StClear and John StClear you and every one of you are hereby summoned to be and appear at the house of John G. Clute in front of Fredericksburg on fryday the 10 Decm. at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to answer to such complaints as shall there be made against them for neglect of militia duty in time of alarrems and other emerjances by order of the commanding officer of the Lenox Militia

6 December 1813 Cyrs. Parke Capt.
1 Regt. Lenox Militia

Fredricksburg 10 February 1796

Lt. Col Tim G. Thompson commanding, ordered Lt's Jacob Ferguson and Cyrenius Parke as follows:

You are hereby requested to make and send me an exact return signed by your selves with all imaginable dispatch of the Inhabittants of Fredricksburg (in the additional) between Lott no. one and half no. 13 including each number and to extend from the front to the rear of the additional land of this township agreeable to the form on the other side.

A Return of the Inhabitants who have Teams of Horses and oxen within the limits of my District

Fredricksburg 3 Decr.1813.

Name	Horses Team	Oxen Teams	3rd Towns.	Concession
Capt C Parke	1	1	1	4
Serjt. Shewman			1	4
William Parke	1			
Jacob Hofman	1			
Henry McCabe	1			
Peter McCabe	1			
Frederick Post	1			
Jacob Post	1			
Widow Pt Quackenbush	1			
Widow R Quackenbush	1			
John Forshee	1	1		
Bernard Forshee	1			
James Forshee	1			
John Jayans		1		
Charles Barnhart		1		
Archibald Parke	1			
John Parke	1			
Nicholas Bronk	1			
Adam Arehart	1			
Archable Campbell	1			
Michael Bartley	1			
James Richardson	1			
Amos Richardson	1			
Robert Nicholson	1			

Richard Patrick 1
Robertson Susie 1
Robertson Sona 1
Robinson Trader 1

Before proceeding further, I should mention an observation which I only recently made relative to the manner in which these people chose names for their children. I have mentioned that there was, and still is to a less degree, a strong tendency to name children for older relatives. The same names keep recurring in succeeding generations.

When listing the children of the three sons of George Mordoff senior (James Forshee's father-in-law), I was struck by the fact that almost without exception the first son was named for his father's father, the first daughter for her father's mother, and that possibly the second son was named for his mother's father and the second daughter for her mother's mother. Unless impelled by some family custom, one would think that the parents, all living in the same neighborhood, would have sought to have avoided such a plethora of Georges and Nancys and the inevitable resulting confusion; particularly in an era when children were accorded but one given name.

Turning to the families of James, John and Bernard Forshee, I was agreeably surprised to note that the first son of record was always Peter and the first daughter was always Mary. James Forshee's second daughter was named for her maternal grandmother, Nancy Mordoff. Catherine Forshee Barnhart named her second son Peter, in accordance with this pattern. This would seem to suggest rather strongly that the parents of Catherine, James, John and Bernard Forshee were named Peter and Mary.

Upon inquiry after making the above observation, I am told that such a practice in naming children did in fact exist and was rigidly adhered to by many families!

That Catherine, James, John and Bernard Forshee were related, and probably closely, seemed beyond question.

1. The name is unusual.
2. Land passed from one to the other by purchase or inheritance.
3. They witnessed each others deeds and marriages.
4. A preponderancy of the given names of children are common to all - "Peter" and "Mary" being chosen for the earliest children in every case.
5. They ~~[illegible]~~ fit into a logical family group on the basis of their estimated ages.

There was much to suggest and nothing inconsistent with an assumption that Catherine, James, John and Bernard were the children of a Peter Forshee whose wife was probably named Mary. The evidence was strong that Catherine and James were certainly related. With the possible addition of a father for "Peter, the heir of Peter", this would constitute a reasonable family group and account for all of the known Forshees of this generation. At the time of their emigration, James would have been 19, Catherine about the same age, and possibly older, John 17, and Bernard 14. It seemed an unlikely situation that a family of this size and age composition would migrate without its parents or an older relative.

The discovery of the registration of a deed in 1825 by a Peter Forshee, who is described as "Peter Forshee, heir at law of Peter Forshee deceased" presented a minor mystery.

An "heir-at-law" is an individual to whom the property of a person dying without a will would go, according to the laws of inheritance. The order of priority goes as follows: son, grandson, father, brother, grandfather, uncle, nephew, cousin. Of these the only at all probable relationship between these two Peters would be that of father and son, or grandfather and grandson.

Though the deed in question was registered in 1828, it was actually drawn January 19th, 1809, transferring one hundred acres of land from John to Peter Forshee, James Forshee being one of the witnesses. The deed was obviously registered in order to establish title in anticipation of the sale of the land which took place a short time thereafter.

There was no other mention anywhere of this younger Peter Forshee. It could not refer to Peter James Forshee, the son of James Forshee, because James Forshee would inherit before his son, in such a situation.

I do not think it likely that this Peter was a son of the older Peter, because no Peter Forshee appears on either the militia list of 1812 nor the list of those owning horses or oxen dated 1813. While he could have been overage for the militia, one would then expect him to own horses or oxen, as a property owner. (He could hardly have been a son of Peter and at the same time be underage for the militia.)

It seemed that he was more likely the grandson of the older Peter, and a minor in 1812 and 1813, his father being deceased at that time.

It would be natural for such a grandson to enlist the help of his uncle James to testify as to the validity of the deed and his title to the property. In view of the previously mentioned naming pattern then very much in evidence among the Forshees, he should have been a grandson of the elder Peter, in order to be named Peter.

The existence of such a son of the elder Peter (of unknown name) would also provide a father for the Anny Forshee who married George Mordoff, then 20 years of age, in 1810. This Anny was born much too late (about 1790) to be a likely daughter of the elder Peter, and too soon to be a daughter of James, John, or Bernard.

At this point, and very recently, the whole situation clarified itself. Having learned that a sister of one of the ancestors of Dr. N. C. Burleigh of Bath, Ontario had married a Peter Forshee, I paid him a visit and discovered that he has a wealth of information and data about the original settlers, his files including notes on some six hundred different families.

I would like to point out that all of the foregoing conclusions were reached <u>before</u> I consulted Dr. Burleigh.

Anny Forshee was a Forshee only by marriage. She was Anny Percy, a sister of John and Michael Percy. Her parents were married in 1786. Her brothers John and Michael were born in 1790 and 1795, the latter being the youngest member

of the family. She married a Peter Forshee in 1808 or slightly earlier, because in that year she applied for a grant of land as his wife and the daughter of a Loyalist, which request was granted by Order-in-Council on 15 Nov 1808. Since daughters of Loyalists could apply for land only after reaching 21 or marriage, she probably applied as a married woman not yet 21.

Her husband, "Peter Forshee" seems to have died in 1809, since in the following year she married George Nordoff (presumably the son of James Nordoff, who would then have been 20 years of age.)

The above information provides a logical explanation for the origin of "Peter Forshee heir-at-law of Peter Forshee deceased". He was most likely the son of this Peter Forshee and Anny Percy. It still could not be determined whether Anny had married the original widowed Peter, or another hitherto unknown much younger Peter.

The Presbyterian Birth Registers kept by the Rev. Mr. McDowall indicated that there had been a Rebecka Forshee who had married James Van Alstyne and had had a child named Gebus, born on 9 May 1800, and also that there had been a Charity Forshee who had married Jacob Post and had a child named Frederick, born 21 August 1804.

The discovery that there had been a Rebecka, a Charity, and possibly a younger Peter, prompted me to go back to the Tappan and Schraalenburg baptismal records and list in order all children of fathers named Peter, irrespective of the spelling of the surname. The resulting list, when compared with the estimated birthdates of the earliest Forshees in Fredericksburg, was amazing.

Schraalenburg and Tappan were less than ten miles apart. The Tappan church was in existence only from 1767 to 1776. The composite list follows, with the names and previously estimated birthdates of the Fredericksburg Fershoos in the right-hand column. Jacobus and Jan are from the Tappan records, all others from Schraalenburg.

Child	Date	Parents	Witnesses	Name	Estimated Birthdate
Jacobus) Barent)	20 Feb 1763	Pieter Vasie and wife	Jacob Lazier and wife Barent Vasie and wife		
Katrena	15 Mar 1766	Peter Fazier and wife	Jan Vasieur and wife	Catherine	about 1766
Jacobus	14 Mar 1769	Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier	Jacob Lazier Marie Durie	James	1767 - 1768
Jan	23 Aug 1771	Peter Fosjeur Maria Lazier		John	1769 - 1770
				Bernard	about 1772
Peter	1774	Peter Fesier and Rebecke			
Jannetje	31 Aug 1777	Peter Fessur and wife			
				Rebecke	about 1780
Peter	15 Dec 1782	P. Vasie and wife	Pieter Fazier and wife	Peter	1780 - 1783
Cherritje	15 Sept 1785	Pieter Fesyeur and wife	Nicholas Fazier and wife	Charity	about 1784

This is undoubtedly the same family, the father having married first Maria Lazier and second Rebecke -----. It was common practice to use the names of deceased infants for later children.

A Bernard and a Rebecke could well have been baptised elsewhere. (Note the long time interval between Jannetje and the second Peter.)

It seems clear that the twins and the first Peter died.

The statistical chances that there could have been two different Fershoo families with the same sequence of names and such a close correlation in birthdates are no greater than one in ten thousand.

In addition we have the following points to consider.

1. The Forshees and Laziers claimed to be related, despite no intermarriage after their emigration to Canada.

2. Catherine, James, John and Bernard named their children "Peter" and "Mary" in accordance with paternal grandfather, paternal grandmother, etc., pattern.

3. James Forshee named a daughter "Jeanette".

4. James Forshee's tombstone states that he died March 18th, 1853 at the age of 85. In those days many people stated their age as of their next birthday. In this event, the dates check.

5. Friends or relatives appearing in the Tappan records include Laziers, Rogerts, Ferrys, Ratans, Demarests, and Quackenbushes. Quackenbushes lived on farms adjoining the Forshees in Fredericksburg.

6. There is a seafaring tradition in the Tappan Forshee family.

These additional points make the chances that these are not one and the same family about one in a hundred thousand.

In all fairness, it must be pointed out that the Muster Roll of July 7th, 1812 indicates that James was then 45 and John 43. The record could have been an honest error OR They could have been anxious to be overage for militia duty as soon as possible and could have misstated their ages. It is even possible that they overstated their ages by two years on arrival in order to sooner reach twenty-one and be eligible for grants of land. In any event, this inconsistency does not disturb me in the face of all of the other evidence.

I consider that it is now established beyond all reasonable doubt that a Peter Forshee came to Fredericksburg from the vicinity of Tappan, New York prior to the summer of 1785, bringing with him seven (or eight) children and almost unquestionably his second wife, Rebecka.

Let us now go back and see what we can reconstruct regarding these various Forshees, and their early days in Canada.

Peter Forshee

This man, the head of the family who migrated from the vicinity of Tappan, New York to Fredericksburg, was completely unknown to my grandfather James Peter Wilson. We have, therefore, nothing much to go on except the existing records, scanty as they are, together with some knowledge of the early history of the settlement of the Bay of Quinte region.

Tappan is located on the west bank of the Hudson and practically on the New York-New Jersey border. Schraalenburg, New Jersey, which seems to have been the home of his first wife, Mary Lazier, was located eight to ten miles south in the Englewood-Hackensack, New Jersey area.

He was undoubtedly a sea captain and probably engaged in the thriving coastwise trade of the period. Charles Barnhart told my grandfather that he had seen him in such a role. His son, James, is alleged to have known some of the principles of navigation. There was also a seafaring tradition among the Tappan Forshees, according to the Cole genealogy, previously quoted.

He probably lived in or near Tappan, and possibly had at least a small farm where his family lived. At that time only about five per cent of the population lived in towns and cities.

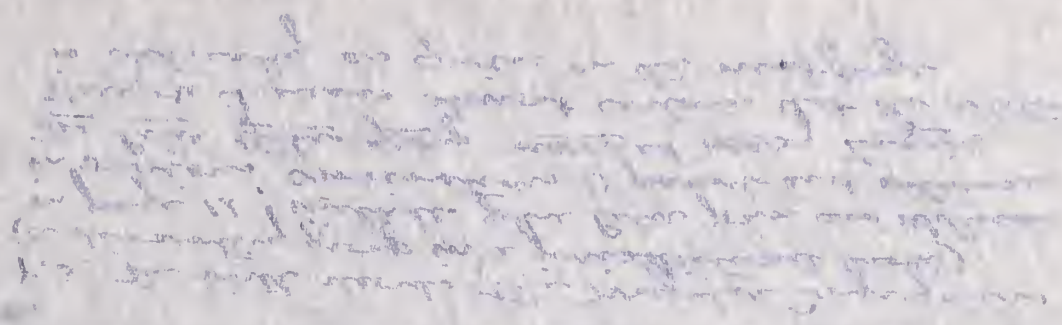
Judging from the birthdates of his children, one would estimate that he was born about 1735-1740. He may well have been the son of the Jan Forseur who wrote the will referred to in the Cole genealogy which mentioned children Jane, Peter, Barent, Johannes, and William.* In this connection, it should be noted that a Barent and a Jan witnessed the baptisms of his earliest children, and that he himself named children Jannetje (Jane), Barent, and Jan. Furthermore, the FIRST wife of the Jan who wrote the will is believed to have been Catherine Waldron, and Peter named his first daughter Katrenn.

On the other hand, the church records indicate that there was a Jacob of about the same age as the Jan who wrote the will. Peter may have been the son of this Jacob or some other member of this generation. Peter named his first son Jacobus, which may be significant.

In either case, he could well have been the grandson of the traditional Jan who "followed the sea and lived to the great age of 110".

Personally, I am willing to accept that he was the Peter referred to in the above mentioned will, though admittedly the belief is based solely on the close similarity in family names and the names of the witnesses at the baptisms of his early children.

* P.S. The birth records of the "Regular Congregation" (a dissenting group in a jurisdictional row) on page 12 include Jane Peter John and William in various combinations of parents and witnesses. The Peter of this group married Mary Lazier. Therefore it seems almost certain that the relationship is actually as given on the next page.



In this event, our line of descent is as follows:

I — Jan (traditional) b. about 1670

II — Jan m. Catherine Waldron

III — Jane; Peter; Barent; 1733 Johannes; William

Peter — m. 1. Maria Lazier; m. 2. Rebecka

IV — 1763 Jacobus Barent; 1766 Katrenn; 1769 Jacobus; 1771 Jan; Barent; 1774 Peter; 1777 Jannetje; Rebecka; 1782 Peter; 1785 Gherritje

Jacobus — m. Margaret Mordoff

V — 1799 Mary; 1801 Nancy; 1805 Peter; Lucy; 1811 (?) Catherine; 1814 Jeannette; 1819 (?) Allen

Jeannette — m. David Wilson

As has been stated, Peter Terahee was of Huguenot descent, and like all of the Huguenots who had joined the Tappan settlement after emigrating from Holland about 1700, he belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church. In fact, the entire community belonged to this church, and the only marriage and baptism records prior to the year 1800 are those of various Dutch Reformed Churches.

At the close of the American Revolutionary War, commerce was disrupted, privateering was over, and American shipping fell upon hard times. According to F. B. Green's "History of Rockland County", economic conditions in the Tappan settlement were in a deplorable state following the Revolution.

Numerous neighbors and relatives, some of whom had probably been out-and-out "tories" during the war, had been emigrating to the Bay of Quinte district in Canada since 1784. Favorable reports were undoubtedly coming back to the effect

that good farm land could be acquired cheaply, or for the asking by anyone willing to declare himself loyal to the British Crown.

It is most unlikely that Peter Forshee had openly allied himself with the British cause during the war. Had he done so, he would almost certainly have got himself on the United Empire Loyalist list which was compiled in 1796, in order to be eligible for preferred treatment in the matter of land grants and other potential favors. His name does not appear on this list, nor is there any family tradition to the effect that the Forshees ever claimed to be Loyalists. In no instance did he acquire any of his Fredericksburg or Richmond property as an original grantee.

In any event and for one reason or another, he decided to abandon his calling and take up farming.

Accordingly at some point between the birth of his last child in September 1785 and the spring of 1786, he gathered up his family and six negro servants and emigrated to Canada. The customary and natural route from his locality was up the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, overland to Oneida Lake, and thence to Oswego and around the eastern end of Lake Ontario to the new settlements in the Bay of Quinte region.

I think that the most likely date of his emigration to Canada was the spring of 1787. At that time his son James would have been in his nineteenth year, which family tradition gives as James' age at the time of his arrival. His daughter Catherine would have been twenty-one, his son John almost sixteen, Barnard about fourteen, Jane (if still living) almost ten, Rebecka about seven, Peter four, and Charity almost two. With children of these ages, his second wife, Rebecka, must certainly have accompanied them. He was then about fifty.

On arrival he undoubtedly found that the most highly prized land along the lake front had already been completely taken up by those who had arrived earlier, and was not available. Just where he first settled we will probably never know for sure, but since there were no roads it was undoubtedly as accessible to water as possible and as near the lake front as possible. The likelihood is that he was able to find a desirable piece of land in such a location because many of the "disbanded-soldier" settlers were already becoming discouraged and were disposing of their land grants for a song. The great majority were single men, and their only prospective wives were the daughters of their married compatriots, most of whom were still children.

I think that the most likely early, if not the original, location would be on the four hundred acres comprising lots four and five of the third Concession of Fredericksburg on the north shore of Hay Bay, just east of the island now owned by my father. His daughter Catherine's marriage record indicates that she was living in Fredericksburg in 1789 and in St. Cuthbert's Parish. The latter seems to have taken in the north shore of Hay Bay, while St. Paul's (at Sandhurst) was located on "the front" and took in the part of Fredericksburg south of Hay Bay. The fact that this land was not registered until February 24th, 1808, means nothing as far as date of acquisition is concerned.

The first houses were of logs and their early life was much as described in the foreword of this account. The clearing of the land was difficult and slow.

Peter eventually acquired over one thousand acres of land, most of which was undeveloped during his lifetime. The land in the township of Richmond which he bought in 1790 was relatively inaccessible by water and rather far removed from the centre of things at that time. Its only obvious advantage would be its proximity to the new grist and saw mills built by the British government at the falls on the Napanee River in 1786. I doubt he ever lived there.

The property in the township of Camden was certainly acquired for speculative purposes only, since the first permanent settler is said to have located in Camden in 1804 and general settlement did not take place for many more years. This Camden property is located directly north of what later became the village of Camden East.

Catherine Forshee was the first of the children to marry. The Langhorn Records indicate that she married Charles Barnhart in February of 1789. If not immediately, they eventually lived on nearby lot number seven. Beyond the fact that they had sons Samuel, Peter, and John and that Charles Barnhart lived to a great age, we know nothing about these people, though there are numerous descendents.

Not later than 1795 John Forshee married Sarah Parke, a daughter of Cyrenius Parke to whom I have previously referred, who lived a couple of miles to the west. John would then have been about twenty-four and she not over seventeen. Mr. Langhorn baptised a son Peter in February 1796, a daughter Mary in January 1799, and a daughter Elizabeth in February 1801. The Cyrenius Forshee who appears on the militia lists and elsewhere was almost certainly another son. One would assume that the Archibald B. and James J. Forshee, who eventually sold some of the land registered by John Forshee, were sons of John and Sarah, particularly since Sarah had brothers Archibald and James. By the same logic, the Sarah who married Frederick Post and died in childbed in 1827 would seem also to be their daughter.* (This Frederick Post was probably her cousin, the son of her father's half sister, Charity. He was born in 1804.) Beyond what has already been stated, we know nothing about any of the members of this family. It would be logical to suppose that they lived on the east half of lot number one and convenient to their old homes. John had acquired this property prior to 1804. It should be mentioned, however, that there is a tradition in the Parke family to the effect that each of Cyrenius Parke's twenty children was given a farm. In his will Sarah, along with several other children, was mentioned to the extent of five shillings, suggesting that she had been previously provided for. Perhaps they lived on her farm, but no such property was ever registered.

James was married in 1798 and perhaps lived next to John on the west half of lot number one, which he had acquired at some time before he registered it in 1802.

Bernard seems to have married by 1801, since he and his wife, Elizabeth, had a daughter Mary baptised by Mr. Langhorn in May of 1802. We have no clue as to where they may have been living at that time. From the land records, one gathers that Bernard (or a son of the same name) was still around in 1842.

Rebecka married James Vanilstyne by 1799, since a child was born in May 1800. Nothing more is known of her. She was probably about nineteen at the time of her marriage.

* However there is no reason why she could not have been Bernard's child.

Charity married Jacob Post by 1803, since a child Frederick was born in August 1804.

As previously noted, Peter married Anny Percy probably in 1805* when he was twenty-five and she probably not over nineteen. He died in 1809, leaving a son Peter. We do not know where they lived in 1805.

* and possibly earlier. Their son disposed of his property in 1828 perhaps as soon as he was 21.

I think that probably Peter Forshee (the father) finally got around to registering his title to the four hundred and eightyone acres in Fredericksburg in February 1805 only in anticipation of his death. I think that he probably died within a few months and that his land was then divided among his sons, James, John, Bernard and Peter. He was probably buried at Sand Hill in one of the graves marked by plain stones in the oldest part of the cemetery, immediately behind the marked grave of his son, James (who has one of the earliest inscribed stones). He would appear to have been one of the more successful of the early settlers. Charles Barnhart described him as tall and stern. Beyond this, we know nothing about him personally.

All of the children were married by the time their father died in 1805, with the possible exception of Peter. While we can only speculate as to where they were probably living before their father's death, we have some rather definite evidence as to where they were living in 1809 and in 1813.

It is probable that on their father's death, the most extensively cleared and desirable of his land was the four hundred acres in lots four and five in the third Concession of Fredericksburgh. The balance was probably completely undeveloped or nearly so. Probably James, John, Bernard and Peter each got one hundred acres of the Fredericksburg property.

On January 19, 1809 Peter, who was comparatively recently married, bought John's former property, the hundred acres in the east half of lot number one. This was probably actually a switch, John having accepted Peter's share of their father's property.

The above assumptions are supported by two surviving documents. Both of these, the first an assessment list as of March 1809, and the second the previously mentioned list of people owning horses or oxen in December 1813, are definitely arranged in geographical order proceeding from west to east.

In March of 1809 the land was held in the following order starting with lot number one (see map): Frederick Post, Peter Forshee, Peter Quackenbush,

Reynard Quackenbush, John Forshee, Barnard Forshee, James Forshee, John Jaynes, Charles Barnhart. This undoubtedly represents the following distribution.

Lot 1	W ½	Frederick Post (see also page 3)
	E ½	Peter Forshee (" " " ")
" 2		Peter Quackenbush
" 3		Reynard Quackenbush
" 4		John Forshee
" 5	W ½	Barnard Forshee
	E ½	James Forshee
" 6		John Jaynes
" 7		Charles Barnhart

Note that the four hundred acres which was registered by Peter (senior) in February 1808 is now divided among his sons.

We know that the younger Peter died in 1809.

When we look at the list of people owning horses and oxen in December 1813 (see page 17), we get the following distribution.

Lot 1	W ½	Frederick Post
	E ½	Jacob Post
" 2		Widow Peter Quackenbush
" 3		Widow Reynard Quackenbush
" 4		John Forshee
" 5	W ½	Bernard Forshee
	E ½	James Forshee
" 6		John Jaynes
" 7		Charles Barnhart

The deceased younger Peter's land has now been taken over by Jacob Post, presumably the husband of his sister Charity.

Though the assessment list clearly indicates that several of the people listed had extensive holdings elsewhere in the township, it appears that on both lists they were listed in order, in accordance with where they were actually domiciled at the time. This makes an interesting arrangement. Posts and Quackenbushes

of the same names appear in the Tappan Church records and the two families were related. Likewise some of the Tappan Forshees and Quackenbushes were presumably related. So here we have them strung along the north shore of Hay Bay thirty or forty years later.

The "Assessment for the Township of Fredericksburg for the year 1808 commencing the first Monday in March 1808 and Ending in March 1809" is most interesting and gives us some idea as to how these various people were getting along at that time.

According to this list, Peter was assessed on two hundred acres with forty acres of it under cultivation. He lived in a frame house, had two horses, three milch cows and one swine, his assessment being £116/10/0.

John was assessed for six hundred acres, fifty of it under cultivation. He lived in a frame house, had three horses, six cows, one horned cattle and one swine, the total assessment being £183/10/0.

Barnard had one hundred acres, twenty-five of it under cultivation. He lived in a round log house, had two horses, three cows and one swine, and was assessed at £73/3/½. Perhaps this was the original house.

James had one thousand acres in Fredericksburg with twenty-five of it cultivated. He lived in a frame house, had two horses and three milch cows, his assessment being £182/10/0.

Charles Barnhart had five hundred acres, seventy of it cultivated. He lived in a frame house, had two horses, two oxen, four milch cows, six horned cattle, two swine, and was assessed at £191/0/0.

Cyrenius Parke (John's father-in-law) had been an officer during the war and had twenty-two hundred acres, with one hundred and twenty-five of it under cultivation. He lived in a squared timber house, had three horses, six oxen, nine milch cows, six horned cattle, and was assessed at £438/0/0.

Except for James, the subsequent history of these men and their families is rather sketchy. James seems to have been the most aggressive and land hungry of the brothers. He seems to have acquired all of the land registered by his father, presumably by buying out his brothers' interests. Most of the others seem to have disappeared from the community by 1840 or 1850.

We have seen that Peter died young in 1809 and that his son Peter sold the land he had inherited, in 1825.

John presumably died between 1822 when he bought lot 4 for his sons Archibald and James, and 1825. Had he been alive in 1825 he, rather than James, would have registered the deed covering his sale of land to Peter in 1809. His sons Archibald and James seem to have sold out and moved on in 1839.

Bernard (or a son of the same name) was still around in 1842 according to the land records.

In 1943 it came to my attention that a John Forshee and his brother, Cyrenius Parks Forshee, had moved to Western Ontario and located near the town of Dresden about 1875. This Cyrenius Parks Forshee had a son Wilbert (born about 1865) and a grandson W. F. Forshee. The father of Cyrenius Parks Forshee was said to have died when his son was but a lad, his given name being unknown to this branch of the family. To our surprise, we also learned that these brothers had left behind three sisters, Charlotte Forshee, the mother of George Dupre of Napanee, Elizabeth Priscilla, the mother of Alfred Martin, and Hannah Forshee, who married Ebenezer Crunk. Though my father and grandfather had known Dupre and Martin for years, we had never known that their mothers were Forshees. Only Alfred Martin had any idea as to the name of his grandfather Forshee, the father of these five children. He thought it was "Alexander".

Recently I found in the Adolphustown Parish Register a record of the baptism of Elizabeth Priscilla, daughter of Alexander H. Forshee and Hannah his wife of Fredericksburg January 4th 1830. The mother would be Hannah Parks, born in 1804. I believe that Alexander H. Forshee was probably a son of Bernard. Had he been a son of John, he would have been marrying his mother's half sister.

Alexander H. Forshee, died May 12, 1842, aged 38. Buried in Richmond Tp.
Hannah, his wife, died June 12, 1850, aged 46 do.

During the first twenty years or so of the new settlement, progress had been slow and the settlers had been busy clearing their land, keeping body and soul together, and building homes. Once the land was pretty well cleared, things began to look up and they developed outside markets for their products. Transportation was still largely by water. Docks and small warehouses for the storage of grain were located every few miles along the Bay of Quinte and Hay Bay. While money was still scarce, they did very well on a barter system once they had accumulated enough "hard money" for the year's taxes.

James Forshee seems to have been an uncommonly successful man. At one time he owned 3100 acres of land scattered from the vicinity of Napanee to as far west as the town of Whitby. Much of this was acquired for speculative purposes.

Between 1816 and 1833 he bought a total of 630 acres of land in one block (see map) and gradually disposed of the rest. This 630 acres was the land which he divided among his children. Part of it (160 acres) with his house, remained in the Wilson family until 1928.

Although my grandfather was but five years old when James Forshee died in 1853, he claimed to remember him as a tall man of proud and haughty bearing who always stood very erect. He was told that he was over six feet in height. The remainder of our information about James Forshee comes to us in the form of a series of disconnected statements and incidents recounted to my grandfather by his mother, James Forshee's daughter. It will be obvious from the content of this information that she was at some pains to impress upon him the superiority of his background, especially as compared with their neighbours. Aside from a little of

the "proud and haughty" which she may well have inherited, one might wonder why this would be necessary. If true, one would think that it would be obvious and would not require special emphasis. I think it can be explained by the historical fact that by the time my grandfather was a young man, the community and the family had fallen on comparatively evil days. During the latter part of the lifetime of James Forshee, farming had been easy once the land was cleared and the community established. For years they had raised a particularly good grade of barley which was sold to the United States to be used in the manufacture of beer, at the very high price, especially for those days, of two dollars a bushel. With this "one crop" farming they lived the life of gentlemen farmers, with tenants to do the work, and without all the drudgery of mixed and dairy farming. Suddenly, all of this came to an end with the imposition of a U. S. embargo on Canadian barley. The extremely profitable "barley days" were over, and during the transition to mixed farming and the building of new markets times were very hard from 1850 to 1860. The sons of the larger landowners, Jame's sons among them, had been brought up in idleness for the most part. Once the lush days were over, they were unwilling or unable to do the necessary physical work. (To the great amusement of their neighbors, the Forshees of this generation, when finally forced to go to work, are said to have gone out ploughing wearing gloves and calf skin shoes.) With farming unprofitable anyway, some mortgaged and lost their farms, others deteriorated through intermarriage with the former tenant class. The more progressive among the younger generation had moved on to other locations, occupations, or professions with the expanding economy of the country at large and the availability of vocations other than farming. Jeanette Forshee, therefore, probably found herself one of the last representatives of the former local "landed gentry" and wanted to be sure that my grandfather appreciated that fact, since the land had by then been largely taken over by former tenant farmers.

Aside from his knowledge of the principles of navigation, we know nothing of James' education. As an evidence of his local superiority, we are told that he drew plans for houses, deeds and other legal forms for his neighbours.

Apparently his farm was organized along the lines of a plantation. Several tenant farmers lived in small houses at some distance from his own. His own house stood on rising ground overlooking much of his property. Among the tenants were Kaisers, Schryvers, Dafoes, and an Amos Tidd, all very poor people. Grandfather remembered these people coming up to the main house to receive their salt pork and other supplies. He also remembered five negro slaves, presumably descendents of the originals, John, Ann, Sal, Mary and Dinah. Ann was his mother's personal servant and looked after Grandfather as a child. Although slavery was abolished in Canada in 1793 and they were free to go, these negroes remained until James Forshee died in 1853, after which they returned once a year and were given their dinner. On the occasion of one of these visits by Dinah, my grandfather, then a small boy, remembered embarrassing his mother by asking why Dinah who obviously came as a visitor couldn't eat with them, rather than in the kitchen with the servants. Several of these negroes were buried on the farm near where the barn now stands, though there are no gravestones.

Quite aside from the size of his land holdings, James Forshee seems to have been a successful farmer. The government offered prizes for the best farms in the

Midland District (Gananoque to Trenton - a distance of 76 miles). He was extremely proud of his six hundred and fifty acres, all of which was under cultivation, and was highly incensed at being awarded second prize. He refused the prize, charging political favouritism due to "Family Compact" influence, and broke with the party though all his friends were Conservatives. This incident undoubtedly explains why his descendents have all voted Liberal!

It probably also explains why his son Peter, who was a captain in the local militia, was relieved of his commission and had his sword confiscated at about the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion against the "Family Compact" in 1837. The sword was later returned and is now in the possession of Malcolm Wilson, a grandson of my grandfather's brother, William Demarest Perry Wilson.

He did not associate with his neighbours, and his friends were chiefly in the town of Napanee, including Allen MacPherson, the Ascons, and others. Allen MacPherson is described by Herrington as "the laird of Napanee" and its most prominent and influential citizen.

When his son Peter expressed a desire to marry Lavinia Jackson, the daughter of a neighbor, he was highly indignant and finally consented to the marriage only on condition that the bride come to his house for the wedding. Under no circumstances was Peter to go "down" to her father's house, and so it was done.

When his daughter, Jeanette, was a young girl, a certain John Anderson of the neighborhood accompanied her home from a party. This incident called forth a "pooh, pooh" from the old man.

Contrary to the general practice in the neighbourhood, "He was never known to sit down in his kitchen, or eat with his servants". (I have since read that Gov. Simcoe deplored this "republican" tendency in the new country.) He is said to have never personally done any physical work.

In recording a deed (see bottom of page 3), James Forshee was described as a "gentleman". This designation at that time implied a landed proprietor rather than a working farmer. The latter was referred to as a "yeoman" or "yeoman farmer" even though he owned his land.

He owned the first gig in the district and on taking it to some sort of meeting he took down part of a rail fence in order to build a barrier to keep out the curious. He also owned two fine grey saddle horses, one of which was ridden by Allen and the other by Jeanette. When Allen was a young boy, he took these horses to Kingston, then a military centre, where they were admired by Army officers who attempted to commandeer them. James had to go to Kingston to recover them.

His house, still standing (though in a bad state of dilapidation) is the second on the site and this is the house in which my grandfather, James Peter Wilson, was born. The original burned during James Forshee's absence, and on his return his only question was "Did you save my bureau?" Fortunately, the bureau which contained his money had been saved.

On one occasion he returned home wearing very disreputable clothing. His family thought he had been robbed until he produced a deed to 100 acres of land which he had obtained from a homesick and discouraged English settler in exchange for his clothes and what money he had in his pockets. In view of his much heralded great pride, I imagine he must have returned home via the back lots.

He was married in 1798 at the age of 29 to Margaret Mordoff who seems to have been 20 years of age. Concerning her, we know practically nothing except that she came from across the bay, in St. Paul's Parish Fredericksburg and signed the record of her marriage with her mark. There were no schools and few opportunities to obtain any education during the particular years when she was growing up. Girls were not given much formal education anyway. She was a daughter of George Mordoff Senior who appears on the U.E. Loyalist list as having settled in Fredericksburg, having been a sergeant in the King's Royal Regiment of New York during the war. She died March 20, 1836 at the age of 55 and is buried beside her husband at the old Sand Hill burying ground.

In addition to Mary and Nancy, whose baptisms are recorded in the Langhorn records, there were five other children, Peter, James, Lucy, Catharine, Jeanette, and Allen.

Though he gave each child a fine farm, his sons had been spoiled as were most of the husbands of his daughters. Within a comparatively few years following his death, all of the land save that left to Jeanette had been mortgaged and wasted and lost, and the name of Forshee had disappeared from the community.

Even during his lifetime, his children and grandchildren frequently looked to him for their support and returned to his home to live for long periods.

He died in 1833 at the age of 85 and is buried at Sand Hill Burying Ground near his farm.

Descendants of James Forshee

His eldest child Mary was baptised July 21, 1799, one year following his marriage. She must have died as an infant or small child. Our only knowledge of her is through the above entry in the Langhorn Records. My grandfather did not mention her, and presumably never knew of her.

James Forshee's second child was Nancy, and we learn from the Langhorn Records that she was baptized February 14, 1802. She married Minard Carscallen of Camden in 1827. Grandfather's comment was to the effect that he got drinking and went to pieces. Their children, John, William, James and Peter came back and lived with James Forshee. There were no descendants known to my grandfather in 1933.

Peter James Forshee, the third child, was born in 1803. His baptism is not recorded in the Langhorn Records. He married Lavinia Jackson (b 1813 d 1843) rather against his father's wishes as he considered Peter to be marrying beneath him. As a younger man, he seems to have occupied an important place in the

community, having held a captain's commission in the local militia at a time when everyone could not pretend to such rank even in Colonial Militia.

He was also one of those appointed by the Crown to sit at the Quarterly Sessions, the only legal body under the rather primitive judicial organization of the period. They settled land disputes and had quite wide powers. Grandfather remembers having seen the book in which he recorded his cases and judgments at his "court". Curiously in 1935 I found at his house the last three volumes of a four volume set of Blackstone's Commentaries, which he presumably used. The fact of his having been temporarily relieved of his sword and commission during the Rebellion of 1837 has been mentioned. This was wholly without justification and probably due to his father's earlier falling out with the Tory "Family Compact".

A document in the files of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society lists him as an Assessor and Enumerator in the Township of Fredericksburgh in 1848, for which he received a fee of £15/17/6.

Peter was given about 330 acres of land consisting of Lot 15 and part of Lot 16 in the 4th Concession of Fredericksburgh.

His brother, Allen, had been given 200 acres (Lot 15 5th Concession) which included his father's house.

Allen's wife died in 1859, he had no further use for the large house so they traded farms in 1861.

By 1866 all three of Peters sons had left for greener fields, and his property was heavily mortgaged. His brother Allen was dead. Alone and without resources, he was unable to put in any crop one year, and finally went to live with his ~~daughter~~ niece ~~Mary~~ MARY in Tamworth, Ontario - north of Napanee - where he died. His gravestone in Tamworth reads: "In Memory of Peter J. Forshee, Died Mar 4, 1885, Aged 80 years". During his younger and more prosperous days (and while his father was still living, he had been something of a local squire. He was probably a victim of the combination of "too proud to work" and the comparatively unprofitable farming conditions during his later life.

The fourth child of James Forshee was Lucy Forshee, who married Reuben Neely. There were two daughters, Elizabeth and Nancy Caroline, with no known descendents in 1935.

The fifth child was Catharine Forshee, who was born in 1811. She married Andrew Fraser. In 1831 James Forshee purchased a farm for Andrew Fraser. She died July 13, 1847 at the age of 36, having borne six children.

Andrew Fraser's second wife was Polly Chamberlain, a sister of Dr. Chamberlain, one of the first physicians in the community. My grandfather said that all of the Fraser children were farmed out on the Forshees, possibly due to the early death of their mother.

Jeannette Forshee, the sixth child, was born in 1814 and died in 1878. She was my great grandmother. She married David Wilson probably in 1846 or 1847, at which time she would have been 32 or 33 years of age. Her father gave her 100

acres of land in 1849 and in 1866 her husband, David Wilson, bought from her brother, Peter Forshee, the adjoining 50 acres on which her father's house stood. This comprised "the Farm" which remained in the Wilson family until 1926. What we know of her has been covered earlier in these records. I understand that she suffered some chronic lung condition during her later years, possibly tuberculosis. She is buried at Napanee.

Allen Smith Forshee, the youngest child, who was born in 1819 or 1820, married Sarah Coulson (1826-1859). Grandfather told me that her family were "cultured English people" who had settled near Close's Mill, a few miles east of the Forshee farm. His wife died young of tuberculosis, leaving two daughters, Mary and Margaret. Allen died at age 46, "having contracted tuberculosis from his wife". He is buried at Morven Cemetery near Napanee. According to Grandfather, "Peter Forshee and Reuben Neely were the executors. The daughters were given money as they required it, Peter possibly used some, until finally nothing was left". Mary married James Aylesworth and lived in Tamworth, Ontario where she died about 1934.

Archibald C. Wilson, M. D.
Hartford, Connecticut
December 31, 1956

THE MORDOFF FAMILY

Our interest in this family of Loyalists stems from the fact that one of the daughters, Margaret, married my great great grandfather, James Forshee, in July 1793. The father of the family was George Mordoff, Sr., a sergeant in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. He had a wife and seven children. As refugees during the course of the American Revolutionary War, his family were among the earliest arrivals in Upper Canada, their arrival antedating by a considerable period the granting of land and establishment of the first permanent settlements in 1784.

My grandfather, James F. Wilson, was unable to tell me anything about them. What I have been able to learn of them comes chiefly from military records, the United Empire Loyalist List, Records of the Loyalist Claims, the Langhorn and other church records, and the local land records.

The military records spell the name "Mardoff", while in the Langhorn records, the Loyalist list, and the signatures of several of them, the name appears as "Mordoff". In the "Loyalist Claims" it is spelled both ways. It is an unusual name and the possibility that it represents a corruption of the Scottish name "Murdoch" immediately suggests itself.

This family came to Canada from the Mohawk Valley in New York State, and some remarks about that area and its part in the American Revolutionary War seem in order.

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The vast area extending north and west from Schenectady to the south shore of Lake Ontario was then known as Tryon County, and though sparsely settled by about 5,000 people, it contained a large number of prosperous villages and settlements. In addition there were several sizeable Indian villages of a high order with permanent houses, orchards, and extensive cultivation.

"The settlers included a variety of nationalities, German, Dutch, English, Irish, Scotch-Irish, and particularly in the vicinity of Johnstown, Scottish Highlanders."

Sir William Johnson, a wealthy large landowner and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, lived in an impressive fortified manor house at Johnstown and was a man of great influence in the community, particularly among the Mohawks. He brought in settlers and operated his holdings along semi-feudal lines, leasing his property and thus maintaining a considerable following among the settlers. He died in 1774, leaving a son, Sir John Johnson. His son-in-law, Col. Guy Johnson, succeeded to his office. Another influential family was that of Col. John Butler and his son Walter.

Both of these families were closely allied with the Mohawk chief, Joseph Brant, who had been educated in Connecticut and travelled in England. The Johnsons and the Butlers were strongly and unitedly Tory.

During the Revolutionary War the whole county was regarded as a Tory stronghold, the proportion of Loyalists in the Mohawk Valley being greater than almost any section of the northern states. "The course of the War forced many of them, including the most powerful and influential, to flee to Canada."

Following the news of the British defeat at Bunker Hill in 1775, Col. Johnson, the Butlers, and Joseph Brant with numerous followers left for Fort Niagara. Sir John Johnson remained at Johnson Hall, guarded by 150 armed Highlanders and a strong party of Mohawks.

Surrounded by superior forces in 1776, Sir John Johnson surrendered to General Herkimer. He was taken prisoner and then was paroled. Within four months Johnson broke parole and with a large number of his tenants and other Tories, proceeded through the woods to Montreal, arriving almost three weeks later, after great hardship. He was then commissioned a colonel in the British forces and proceeded to raise a regiment consisting of two battalions, the "Royal Greens" (King's Royal Regiment of New York). Col. John Butler raised a corps known as "Butler's Rangers". Both forces were recruited largely if not entirely from Tories who had lived in the Mohawk Valley and the surrounding country.

During the course of the war, between the years 1777 and 1781, these forces, usually in concert with their Indian allies and British regulars, made numerous raids and expeditions into the area of their former homes. Nowhere was the war fought with more bitterness, bloodshed and brutality, on both sides. Hundreds of houses and barns were systematically burned, crops were destroyed, and thousands of domestic animals were slaughtered or driven off. Many noncombatants were killed. Whole villages were put to the torch and the countryside was ravaged repeatedly. In 1779 a retaliatory expedition in force under General Sullivan invaded the area. Forty towns were destroyed as well as scattered Tory houses. "A greater degree of barbarity than Brant ever exercised, putting even the Wyoming (previously ravaged by Tories) to the blush, was seen in the mutilation of the bodies of the fallen." "It failed to accomplish its real purpose. Indian and Tory forces were not destroyed or even crippled. From Niagara and the St. Lawrence they returned revengeful to ravage the borders with even greater malignity than before."

On one of these raids, in May 1780, Sr. John Johnson sailed up Lake Champlain to Crown Point with 400 of his Royal Greens, Butler's Rangers, and 200 Indians. They came, entirely undiscovered, in the night of May 21st to the Johnstown settlements.

According to the Papers of General Haldimand, Vol. B-158, it was on the following day, May 22, 1780, that George Mandoff and his son James enlisted in the second Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

In his "King's Royal Regiment of New York", Brigadier General Cruikshank said "We arrived at the settlement within five miles of Johnson Hall on the 21st of last month in the evening ..... One hundred and forty-three Loyalists and a number of women and children, with about thirty Blacks, male and female, came off with us".

Occupying Johnstown, Johnson continued up the Mohawk for several miles, destroying villages, burning every house not owned by a Tory, slaughtering sheep and cattle, and carrying off the horses. A number of persons were killed, and many prisoners were taken. Back at Johnstown, the invaders burned all its houses before retreating to Crown Point.

In September 1780 Johnson collected at Lachine three companies of Royal Greens, 200 Butler's Rangers, and two companies of British Regulars and Hessians. Ascending the St. Lawrence he proceeded to Unadilla via Oswego. Joined by Brant, his total force was 1,500. They planned to sweep the Susquehanna Valley all of the way to Schenectady. After extensive destruction and pillaging on both sides of the Mohawk, Johnson met a force of 1,500 patriots at Klock Field. The battle was indecisive, the patriots did not push their advantage, and Johnson made good his escape to Canada via Oswego.

In January 1781 Brant was again on the rampage from Niagara. In October 1,000 men, including four companies of Royal Greens, Butler's Rangers, and 200 Indians attacked again via Oswego. Johnstown was again severely damaged. After a stubborn battle with 40 killed on each side, the Tories retreated and were pursued to Canada Creek where they fought again. Walter Butler was killed, the Indians fled, followed by the rest. They were pursued, and dispersed into the forest. All but ten made their way to the military establishment at Carleton Island (at the entrance of the St. Lawrence), reaching it after a rigorous march of seven days.

The surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in October 1781 ended the fighting, though the peace treaty formally ending the war was not signed for another two years.

The Tory regiments which had been operating from Canada remained there, active and intact, under the command of General Frederick Haldimand, the Governor of the "Province of Quebec", which at that time included the present Province of Ontario.

---- " ----

We have seen that George Hurtoff enlisted in the King's Royal Regiment of New York at Johnstown, New York on May 22, 1780. Some very interesting information comes to us from the records of the claims later filed by Loyalists against the British government. In filing these claims, they had to appear in person before the Commissioners, accompanied by witnesses to substantiate the extent of their losses. Partial indemnification was granted and, while it represented only a small fraction of the actual loss, a total of over thirty million dollars was paid by the British government to Loyalists.

The following are the entries pertaining to George Nordoff:

LOYALIST CLAIMS.

870. Claim of GEORGE NORDOFF, late of Tryon Co. September 26, 1787.

Claimt. says:

He was at Oswego & Cataraqui in the Fall of '83 & during the Winter.

Is a native of Scotland. Went to America in 1773. Settled in Tryon Co. Joined Sir John Johnson in '80. Staid as long as he could, tho. he gave all the assistance to the Loyalists & always declared his sentiments. Served in 2nd Batall. Continued till discharged.

Had 100 acres; bought a Lease in the year 1773. It was a Lease from Sir Wm. Johnson to Peter Young of 100 acres, Tryon Co., Kingsboro Patent forever, paying £6 pr. an. He gave £25 York for it. There were only 2 acres clear & a framed house. He cleared 26 acres afterwards and built a barn. Vals. ye whole at £100 York. Lost a mare, 1 Heifer, taken by the Rebels. Cattle, farming utensils & some furniture.

DANIEL SMITTS, Witn:

Knew Claimt. He was always Loyal. Knew his Place. He bought it before the troubles of Peter Young. There was not much clear before he bought it. He cleared a good Deal.

Marginal Note: Seems a good man.

. . . . . .

871. Claim of DANL. SMITH, late of Tryon Co.

GEO. NORDOFF, Witn.

Knew Claimt. Remembers he joined Sir John Johnson, and that stock was seized on that acct. Witness was then in the Country and knew it. 3 Cows & some Cattle & household furniture.

----- " -----

I have no information as to the part of Scotland from which George Nordoff came, but it is known that many of the Scottish in the Johnstown settlements were Highlanders.

The military records, to be quoted later, would indicate that he was born in Scotland in 1739 or early in 1740, that his wife was born in November 1742, and that their eldest child, James, was born in Scotland in 1765.

They were perhaps married in 1763 or 1764 when she was twenty or twenty-one. It is most unlikely that she was other than Scottish. Her name appears in the military records as "Ann" and "Agnes", and in the Langhorn records as "Nanny". I think it was actually Nancy, since she had a daughter Nancy and several granddaughters were so named. ("Nancy" and "Nanny" are diminutive forms of "Ann". The "Agnes" of the military records is doubtless an error.)

By 1773 when they came to America they probably had four children. They seem to have proceeded directly to the Johnstown area, since he purchased a lease there in 1773. They stayed there until their emigration to Canada during the Revolutionary War, having had three additional children in Johnstown.

One can assume that they were farm people of modest circumstances in Scotland. It appears that they did not arrive penniless. Compared with most young settlers of that period, they were probably relatively well off. The £25 that he paid for his lease would be the equivalent of at least $1,500 today, and money was not easily come by. He seems to have been industrious and progressive and was very probably, as the Loyalist Commissioners said in their marginal note, "a good man".

After his enlistment in May 1780 he undoubtedly took part in the raids and battles in which the King's Royal Regiment was involved, and during his service was promoted to the rank of sergeant. He stayed with his regiment until it was disbanded in 1784 at Cataraqui.

It has been mentioned that during the war there was great and understandable bitterness between the two contending parties in the Mohawk Valley. The Haldimand Papers, vol. B-155, include a:

> "Petition of Sundry Soldiers of the K.R.N.Y. having families in Albany and Tryon Counties, who are ill-treated and Pray Permission to Bring them to Canada."

This petition mentioned:

> "George Murloff, wife and six children"

The place and date of this petition are not definitely known. Undoubtedly it was written at Carleton Island, Cataraqui, Oswego or at some other point on the lower St. Lawrence where the regiment was then based. The date was of course after George Mordoff's enlistment in May of 1780.

Precisely when he was able to bring his wife and six children to Canada, we do not know. They were possibly brought back by one of the parties

which subsequently raided the area. He may possibly have gone for them personally after the cessation of hostilities following the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781. The Haldimand Papers include a subsistence list for the period 25 Dec 1781 to 24 Jan 1782. Appearing thereon is "Agness Murdoff, her three sons over six, one daughter over six, and two daughters under six". The family therefore arrived in Canada not later than December 1781. Unquestionably, they were part of the considerable group of refugees then subsisting on British military rations in Canada.

The Haldimand Papers, vol. B-158, contain a "Roll of Men of 2nd K.R.R.N.Y. Enlisted since 25 Oct., 1781". This includes:

"George Murdoff 25 June 1782".

This is undoubtedly George, Jr., as he came of suitable age.

The War Office Papers in Ottawa include a list of the soldiers of the 2nd Batt. K.R.R.N.Y. On this list appear the following entries:

Murdoff,	George,	aged	43 yrs	5 ft.	9⅞ ins,	born in	North Britain,	3 yr.	service
"	" Jr	"	13 "	4 "	8 "	"	" Old England	9 mos.	"
"	James	"	17½ "	5 "	6½ "	"	" North Britain	3 yr.	"

From the lengths of service mentioned, this undated list was proably compiled in April or May of 1783.

The next mention of the family appears in the Haldimand Papers, Vol. B-126:

"Roll of Loyalists at and in the Dependencies of Cataraqui, and the Provisions they drew, Cataraqui, 4 Dec., 1783"
2nd King's
Roy Reg't, N.Y.

Ann Murdoff	aged	41	years	0	months
John	"	"	11	"	6	"
Thomas	"	"	8	"	0	"
Margaret	"	"	6	"	6	"
Agnes	"	"	5	"	9	"

(During the winter of 1783-84 George Murdoff's unit was the garrison at Cataraqui.)

This is the first entry regarding the family which mentions the children by name. Only four children are included. Clearly there was a total of seven children. James enlisted with his father in 1780. The petition of George Murdoff to bring his family to Canada mentioned six children; the 1781 subsistence list included six. George, Jr. having enlisted in 1782, one would have expected this 1783 list to include five dependent children rather than four.

In addition to the children named on this 4 Dec 1783 provision list we know that there was a "Lucy" Mordoff. She petitioned for land as "Lucy Russell alias Mordoff" at the same time as James Russell (presumably her husband) on 26 March 1798. It is difficult to account for this Lucy on any other basis than as a daughter of George Mordoff, Sr.

We also know that there was a "Nancy" Mordoff, who was granted 200 acres of land as the daughter of George Mordoff, U.E., on 28 Feb 1799.

Obviously "Agnes" as the name of the youngest child is an error, which will be discussed later. Otherwise, we have too many children.

The next information of record regarding this family appears in a "Return of Disbanded Soldiers and Loyalists Settled in Township No. 3 (Cataraqui) Mustered 6 Oct 1784". These people were on government rations for a period of three years after the allocation of land grants in the summer of 1784. All Loyalists over 10 were to receive a full ration, and children under 10 a half ration. The provisions were distributed at Kingston (Cataraqui). The above return shows that George Mordoff had with him a wife, two sons over 10, two daughters over 10, and a daughter under 10. So now we have again the required total of five dependent children. (James and George, Jr., being discharged soldiers, would draw provisions on their own account.)

The remaining questions are, the name of the daughter missing from the 4 Dec 1783 provision list, and the true name of the youngest child listed as "Agnes". Agnes was not a family name, and no Agnes Mordoff appears in any of the subsequent Fredericksburg records. It is also to be noted that the mother was on one occasion erroneously listed as "Agness".

The records of the Caughnawaga Dutch Reformed Church (at Fonda, New York) include but one reference to the Mordoffs. This is under date of 4 June 1779, at which time Angnietje, born Meert 12, the child of George Mordoch and Angnietje Carr, was baptised.

The "Angnietje" is, of course, a Dutch rendering of "Ann" or "Nancy". In the script of the time, with its flowing s's, "Angnietje" could look something like a Dutch rendering of "Agness", particularly to a not too well informed English military clerk. If the mother submitted the family information in writing, this is a possible explanation for the error.*

The birth date 12 March 1779 would indicate that the child was actually <u>four</u> years and nine months old on 4 Dec 1783, rather than five years and nine months. In the latter case the two youngest children would have been born precisely nine months apart, a most unlikely circumstance.

*On at least one occasion the families of soldiers in the K.R.R.N.Y. were formally delivered to the commanding officer, Sir John Johnson, perhaps on a prisoner exchange basis. At Fonda, New York there is a copy of a receipt for the delivery of one group, listing them by name.

From the foregoing data and other later information, we can arrive at fairly accurate estimates as to the probable birth dates of the various members of this family. While there are certain inconsistencies in the data, there is not usually any serious conflict.

There are several reasons why the data are often less precise than they would appear to be. In the first place, military and government clerks were often inaccurate, particularly when obtaining information from people who were probably ill-educated. Perhaps more importantly, there was often an incentive for people to overstate ages. By so doing, children could be made eligible for full rations or for grants of land, and adults could sooner terminate or avoid military obligations. Such practices were common. Also common on gravestones and otherwise was the practice of anticipating the next birthday. A man was often said to be seventy-five, when he was in his seventy-fifth year (but had actually only attained age 74).

The most likely arrangement of this family appears to me to have been as follows:

George Mordoff	=	Nancy Carr (?Kerr)
born late in 1739 or early in 1740 in Scotland		born Nov 1742 probably in Scotland

James	George	John	Lucy	Thomas	Margaret	Nancy
born late in 1765 in Scotland	born late in 1769 or early in 1770 in England	born about May 1772 probably in England	born in 1773 or 1774 near Johnstown	born about Nov 1775 near Johnstown	born about May 1777 near Johnstown	born 12 Mar 1779 near Johnstown

The placing of Lucy between John and Thomas, rather than between James and George, is purely arbitrary and based on the likelihood that in a community where marriageable girls were very scarce, she would be more likely to be 23 or 24 than age 31 at the time of her marriage, which presumably took place in 1798. On the other hand, she might have been born about 1767, and in this event would have been 16 in Dec 1783. This could explain the absence of her name from the provision list, since a girl was often struck off the list if she was considered old enough to work.

In addition to the family members mentioned above, the Anglican Church records indicate that a Margaret Mordoff was interred at St. Paul's Churchyard November 5, 1845, aged 108 years. If actually that old, she was born in either 1736 or 1737. She was possibly an unmarried sister of George Mordoff, Sr., who joined the family after their emigration to Canada.

On his discharge in 1784, George Mordoff, Sr. was granted land in the Township of Fredericksburg along with other members of his regiment.

The United Empire Loyalist List, compiled in 1796, includes George Mordoff senior, a sergeant in the King's Royal Regiment of New York who settled in Fredericksburg. James Mordoff is listed as a private soldier of this regiment, and George Mordoff junior as a member of the regiment and as a son of George Mordoff senior.

The original survey maps and land records reveal that George Mordoff senior was fortunate enough to draw land on the lake front. He was the original grantee of half of lot 12 in the First Concession of Fredericksburg. This land is located near St. Paul's Anglican Church at Sandhurst (see map opposite p. iii of the foreword).

In a petition dated at Fredericksburg 10 Oct 1797 he requested an additional 100 acres of land, stating that he had received only 400 acres previously. He further stated that he had settled on part of this land and was improving it. When he died is not known, but presumably it was before 1805 since he is not listed as a taxpayer as of that date. Presumably he was buried in St. Paul's Churchyard.

The Longhorn records include an entry to the effect that "Nanny, wife of George Mordoff of Fredericksburg, was interred April 15, 1795, in St. Paul's Churchyard". She would have been fifty-two years of age.

Of their children, we are of course primarily interested in Margaret, who married James Forsbes.

Margaret Mordoff

Margaret was born in the Johnstown settlements in the Mohawk Valley in 1777. If her age as stated in the Provision List of Dec 4, 1783 is accurate, she was born between May 4th and June 4th of that year. This is consistent with the information on her gravestone.

During the first few years of her life she and her family lived in a war torn area, with raiding parties of both sides periodically ravaging the countryside. When she was three her father and her eldest brother, who was then fourteen and a half, joined Sir John Johnson's regiment during one of its forays into the area, leaving her mother with six children, the eldest thirteen and the youngest two years old. One wonders how they were able to make out. The bitterness of feeling in that area was extreme and, as has been mentioned, her father and other enlisted men from that locality sought permission to bring their families "who were ill-treated" to Canada.

The family must have made the journey to Canada in 1780 or 1781. The latter date seems more probable. In any event, they were subsisting on government

rations at some military establishment in Canada on 25 December 1781. By that date hostilities had ceased and I would assume that they remained with her father's regiment until it was disbanded in the summer of 1784, at which time land grants were made to the soldiers and to the refugees who had by then arrived from New York City via the St. Lawrence. The most accessible and desirable part of the land granted to her father was 100 acres adjacent to St. Paul's Church, Sandhurst, where she doubtless lived until her marriage. In 1795 her mother died. On 18 Nov 1797 she was granted 200 acres of land as a U.E. Loyalist. In July of 1798 when she was twenty-one she married James Forshee, who was eight years her senior. Girls of marriageable age were extremely scarce in the community at that time.

The record of her marriage (see photo opposite page 6 of the account of the Forshee family) tells us that she was then a spinster living in St. Paul's Parish of the Church of England, in Fredericksburg. She was married July 23, 1798, which was a Monday, banns having been read in church on the three preceding Sundays. She signed her marriage record with her mark, though her older brothers and sister were at least able to sign their names.

There were seven known children (see the account of the Forshee family, page 24). One would infer that at some time after the birth of their second child in 1802 she and her husband left the Anglican Church, since none of the later children were baptized by the Rev. Mr. Langhorn. She died March 20, 1836 at the age of 58 and was buried at Sand Hill. Beyond this scanty information, I know nothing about this woman, my great great grandmother.

The Other Children of George and Nancy Mordoff

James Mordoff. If the military records are correct, James, the eldest child, was born about November of 1765 in Scotland. He enlisted with his father on May 22, 1780, at which time he was fourteen and one half years of age.

The Loyalist List indicates that he was a private in the King's Royal Regiment of New York and that he was on the "Provision List of 1786". This indicates that he drew government stores at Kingston along with the other original Loyalists during the first three years of the new settlement. The entry also indicates that he drew 100 acres of land in 1784. This land consisted of half of lot 4 in the second Concession of Fredericksburg, which is across Hay Bay from Hare Island and slightly to the east.

He was married by 1789, since the Langhorn records indicate that he and his wife Lois had a son George, baptised May 16, 1790, and a daughter

Nancy, baptised March 14, 1792. He must have sold his land, because in July 1795 he was in Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), stating that he and his wife were entitled to 400 acres, that they couldn't find any land acceptable to them in the Midland District, and wanted 400 acres in the Home District. This seems to have been granted. They again petitioned for land 7 July 1796. By February 7, 1797 they were apparently back home again, since Mr. Langhorn baptised a daughter Anny on that date. He baptised another daughter Elizabeth 19 August 1798. In February of 1799 his brother John applied for a land grant and transferred title to James.

The Presbyterian Birth Register kept by the Rev. Mr. McDowall lists a child of James Mordoff and Lois Charter May 19, 1800 and a daughter Lucy born in 1803.

He and his brother Thomas witnessed a marriage in 1802. He obtained Crown deeds to land near Napanee - 200 acres in 1803 and 228 acres in 1804. (The latter land was later the site of the old Agricultural Fair Grounds, south of the river and immediately east of the Kingston road.)

George Mordoff, Jr. He was born in England late in 1769 or early in 1770, if the military data regarding him are accurate. He appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Mordoff senior and a member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The Haldimand Papers give his date of enlistment as June 25, 1782. The survey maps indicate that he was awarded the other half of lot 4 drawn by his brother James (see above). The Langhorn records indicate that he and his wife Lucy had a daughter Nancy baptised January 18, 1795. The Loyalist List compiled in 1796 carries the note "left the Province". However, he must have returned because he served in the militia during the War of 1812. A muster roll indicates that he gave his age as 45 in 1812. Others on this list also overstated their ages, presumably in order to sooner terminate their military obligations.

John Mordoff. The Loyalist List shows him to have been a son of George Mordoff senior, who received a grant of 200 acres of land on "coming of age" in 1793. He was therefore born in 1772. The Cataraqui Provision List suggests that he was born about May of that year. The survey maps indicate that he held lots 9, 10 and 11 (600 acres) on the south side of May Bay (in Fredericksburg additional). He was one of the witnesses at his sister Margaret's marriage to James Forshee in 1798.

The Langhorn records include the record of his marriage to Jane Gurlburt, widow, (both of St. Oswald's Fredericksburg) in May 1796. The witnesses included his brother Thomas and his sister Nancy.

The following children were baptised by Mr. Langhorn.

John	September 2, 1797
George	March 31, 1799
John	June 30, 1804
Nicholas	August 10, 1806
Nancy	November 15, 1807
William Watts	1809
Jane	1811
Robert Russell	1813

The Presbyterian birth register of the Rev. Mr. McDowall includes a child William born in 1800, the son of John Mordoff and Jean Watts (apparently the mother's maiden name was used in this instance).

The above listed daughter Nancy married John O'Flynn in 1826. My grandfather Wilson knew that his friends the O'Flynns were related to him through a marriage to one of the Mordoffs. This girl would be his mother's first cousin.

Lucy Mordoff. This daughter could have been either the second or the fourth surviving child. She petitioned for land as "Lucy Russell alias Mordoff" at the same time as James Russell (presumably her husband), on 26 March 1798. It is of course possible that they had been married for some time prior to that date. She could have been born about 1767 or about 1774.

Thomas Mordoff appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Mordoff senior. He witnessed his brother John's marriage in 1796. There is no known surviving record of any marriage or any children. The Anglican Church records indicate that he was interred in St. Paul's Churchyard April 3, 1845, aged 70. John and Thomas were obviously the "two sons over ten years of age" in the census previously mentioned. The Cataraqui Provision List suggests that he was born about November 1775, which is inconsistent with his alleged age 70 at burial. The latter is probably in error and means "in his 70th year". On 12 July 1797 he was granted 200 acres of land as a Loyalist.

Nancy Mordoff. This is the only child whose actual birth date we know. She was born near Johnstown 12 Mar 1779. She witnessed her brother John's marriage in May 1796. She was granted 200 acres of land 28 Feb 1799 and married Happa Farris Goodsell 22 Nov 1800.

There are some scattered references to Mordoffs in the community, as vestrymen of St. Paul's Church and in other connections during the first half of the past century. Any surviving male descendents seem to have gone elsewhere, since there is no further mention of the name. I have never heard of anyone bearing the name today. As I mentioned earlier, I believe that it represents a corruption of "Murdoch".

Practically all of this information about this family was developed through the cooperation of Dr. H. C. Burleigh of Bath, Ontario. My grandfather, James P. Wilson (a grandson of Margaret Mordoff), who was born in 1848, apparently knew nothing about this family. Had he known that they were Loyalists, I am sure he would have told me.

Archibald C. Wilson, M. D.
September 8, 1960

See Vital Records

The Mordoff Family

Our interest in this family stems from the fact that Margaret Mordoff married James Forshee. My grandfather was able to tell me nothing about them. I have never known of any other family of this name, and have wondered whether it could be a corruption of Murdoch.

The United Empire Loyalist list indicates that a George Mordoff senior was a sergeant in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and that he settled in Fredericksburg. The original survey maps reveal that he was one of the fortunate ones who drew land on the lake front. His name appears on the map as the original grantee of half of lot 12 in the First Concession of Fredericksburg. This land is located near St. Paul's Anglican Church at Sandhurst.

There were two battalions of the King's Royal Regiment of New York commanded by Sir John Johnson of Johnstown, New York in the Mohawk Valley. Many of the soldiers in this volunteer regiment came from that locality. Both battalions were among the soldiers who went to Sorel in the fall of 1783, where they were under the authority of General Haldimand, then the Governor of the province.

The earliest mention of George Mordoff appears in the Haldimand papers which indicate that he made a request that his wife and five children be transported from near Johnstown, New York to join him in Canada.

A census of the original settlers of the Bay of Quinte region made in 1784 shortly after their arrival, lists George Mordoff's household as consisting of his wife, two sons over ten years of age, two daughters over ten years of age, and a daughter under ten years of age.

The Loyalist list compiled in 1796 indicates that George Mordoff senior had two sons serving with him in the King's Royal Regiment. James is listed as having been a private soldier and George junior as a member of the regiment, without mention as to his rank.

From the foregoing and other information to be detailed later, the family seems to have consisted of the following:

George Mordoff and his wife Nancy
born about 1735-1740

James	George	a daughter	Nancy	John	Thomas	Margaret
born about 1764	born 1766 or 67	born about 1768	born about 1770	born 1772	born 1774	born 1777 or 78
						m. James Forshee in 1795

Nothing more than can be inferred from the above is known about the father. He had probably been a farmer in the Mohawk Valley.

[illegible]

The Langhorn records indicate that Nancy, wife of George Nordoff of Fredericksburg, was interred April 15, 1795, in St. Paul's Churchyard.

In addition to the family members mentioned above, the Anglican Church records indicate that a Margaret Nordoff was interred at St. Paul's Churchyard November 5, 1845, aged 108 years. If actually that old, she was born in either 1736 or 1737. She was possibly an unmarried sister of George Nordoff Senior.

We have some miscellaneous information about these people from the Loyalist list, the church records, early survey maps, and the land records.

Apparently most of the family remained members of the Anglican Church, since for many years they were listed as pew holders and vestrymen of St. Paul's Church at Sandhurst.

(The following note regarding this church appears in the Langhorn records: "The New Church of St. Paul's Fredericksburg was opened and had divine service performed in it for the first time on Christmas Day 1791. This is perhaps the first church that ever was built new from the ground in the Province of Quebec solely for a Church of England church, excepting one of the Mohawk churches lays claim to a seniority. John Langhorn Episcopal Missionary.")

James Nordoff was born in 1764 or earlier. The Loyalist List indicates that he was a private in the King's Royal Regiment of New York and that he was on the "Provision List of 1786". This indicates that he drew government stores at Kingston along with the other original Loyalists during the first two or three years of the new settlement. The entry also indicates that he drew 100 acres of land in 1784. This land consisted of half of lot 4 in the second Concession of Fredericksburg, which is across Hay Bay from Hare Island and slightly to the east.

The Langhorn records indicate that he and his wife Lois had the following children baptised.

George	May 16, 1790
Nancy	March 4, 1792
Anny	February 7, 1797
Elizabeth	August 19, 1798

The Presbyterian Birth Register kept by the Rev. Mr. Mellowall lists a child of James Nordoff and Lois Charter May 19, 1800 and a daughter Lucy born in 1803.

He and his brother Thomas witnessed a marriage in 1802. He obtained Crown deeds to land near Napanee - 200 acres in 1803 and 225 acres in 1804. (The latter land was later the site of the old Agricultural Fair Grounds, south of the river and immediately east of the Kingston road.)

George Nordoff was born in 1766 or 67. He appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Nordoff senior and a member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The survey maps indicate that he was awarded the other half of lot 4 drawn by his brother James (see above). The Langhorn records indicate that he

and his wife Lucy had a daughter Nancy baptised January 18, 1795. The Loyalist List compiled in 1796 carries the note "left the Province". However, he must have returned because he served in the militia during the War of 1812. The muster roll indicates that he gave his age as 45 in 1812.

Nancy Nordoff must have been one of George Nordoff's "two daughters over ten years of age" on the census list of 1784. The only mention of her occurs in her brother John's marriage record which she witnessed. It is to be noted that she was able to write her own name, whereas her younger sister Margaret could not. Nancy obviously was old enough to have received some schooling prior to the upheavals of the War and her emigration to Canada.

John Nordoff. The Loyalist List shows him to have been a son of George Nordoff senior, who received a grant of 200 acres of land on coming of age in 1793. He was therefore born in 1772. The survey maps indicate that he held lots 9, 10 and 11 on the south side of May Bay (in Fredericksburg additional). He was one of the witnesses at his sister Margaret's marriage to James Forshee in 1798.

The Langhorn records include the record of his marriage to Jane Hurlburt, widow (both of St. Oswald's Fredericksburg) in May 1796. The witnesses included his brother Thomas and his sister Nancy.

The following children were baptised by Mr. Langhorn.

John	September 2, 1797
George	March 31, 1799
John	June 30, 1804
Nicholas	August 10, 1806
Nancy	November 15, 1807
William Watts	1809
Jane	1811
Robert Russell	1813

The Presbyterian birth register of the Rev. Mr. McDowall includes a child William born in 1800, the son of John Nordoff and Jean Watts (apparently the mother's maiden name was used in this instance).

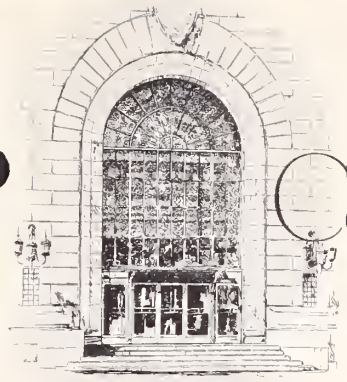
The above listed daughter Nancy married John O'Flynn in 1826. My grandfather knew that his friends the O'Flynns were related to him through a marriage to one of the Nordoffs. This girl would be his mother's first cousin.

Thomas Nordoff appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Nordoff senior. He witnessed his brother John's marriage in 1796. There is no surviving record of any marriage or any children. The Anglican Church records indicate that he was interred in St. Paul's Churchyard April 3, 1845 aged 70. John and Thomas were obviously the "two sons over ten years of age" in the 1784 census.

Margaret Nordoff died in 1836, at which time she was said to be 58. She would therefore have been born in 1777 or 1778. She witnessed one of the Langhorn marriages in 1792. In 1798 she married James Forshee. In both instances she signed by making her mark. In all fairness, it must be pointed out that she

was born at the height of the Revolutionary War in an area where feeling ran very high. She could have had no opportunity to attend school prior to coming to Canada in 1784 at the age of six or seven. There were no schools in the new settlement during the first few years. Her mother had died in 1795. At the time of her marriage, she was living in St. Paul's Parish south of Bay Bay and was a spinster. Beyond this county information, I know absolutely nothing about this woman, my great great grandmother.

Archibald C. Wilson, M. D.
Hartford, Connecticut
February 6, 1957



CONNECTICUT GENERAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Established 1865

HARTFORD 15, CONNECTICUT

ARCHIBALD C. WILSON, M. D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, REINSURANCE

February 11 1957

Dear Dr Burleigh:

I would appreciate having you deposit this material in your collection. I don't expect you to wade through all of it. I'm afraid it is not written in a particularly entertaining manner.

The first 22 pages consist of a detailing of the basic information and how I arrived at my conclusions. I did it this way for several reasons. To the best of my knowledge no one living to-day has heretofore known anything about the antecedents of James Forshee. I have in the past been rather irked by compilers of genealogies who make bald statements which sometimes appear rather fanciful, without quoting any authority or basis for the belief. The third reason is that the discovery of any additional material can easily be fitted in, and if you have to change your mind, any necessary explanations are easy.

I am much indebted to you and the information in your files, ~~to~~ in providing the key to unlock a door which I had almost despaired of ever opening.

My best regards. Hope to see you this summer

Sincerely

A C Wilson

Monday Sept 12th/6

Dear Dr Burleigh:

Enclosed are replacements for pages 6-7 9-10-11 of my account of the Mordoff family.

Had a letter from Mr Fraser of Johnstown giving me some post-Revolutionary information on what happened to Mordoff's land. Apparently some of the local patriots, "swapped" their land, for anything better belonging to Sir Wm Johnson's Loyalist tenants

Best regards

Fred Wilson

which subsequently raided the area. He may possibly have gone for them personally after the cessation of hostilities following the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781. The Haldimand Papers include a subsistence list for the period 25 Dec 1781 to 24 Jan 1782. Appearing thereon is "Agness Murdoff, her three sons over six, one daughter over six, and two daughters under six". The family therefore arrived in Canada not later than December 1781. Unquestionably, they were part of the considerable group of refugees then subsisting on British military rations in Canada.

The Haldimand Papers, vol. B-158, contain a "Roll of Men of 2nd K.R.R.N.Y. Enlisted since 25 Oct., 1781". This includes:

"George Murdoff 25 June 1782".

This is undoubtedly George, Jr., as he came of suitable age.

The War Office Papers in Ottawa include a list of the soldiers of the 2nd Batt. K.R.R.N.Y. On this list appear the following entries:

Murdoff,	George,	aged	43	yrs	5	ft.	9½	ins.	born in	North Britain,	3 yr.	service
"	" Jr	"	13	"	4	"	8	"	" "	Old England	9 mos.	"
"	James	"	17½	"	5	"	6½	"	" "	North Britain	3 yr.	"

From the lengths of service mentioned, this undated list was probably compiled in April or May of 1783.

The next mention of the family appears in the Haldimand Papers, Vol. B-126:

"Roll of Loyalists at and in the Dependencies of Cataraqui, and the Provisions they drew, Cataraqui, 4 Dec., 1783"

2nd King's
Roy Reg't, N.Y.

Ann Murdoff	aged	41	years	0	months
John	"	"	11	"	6	"
Thomas	"	"	8	"	0	"
Margaret	"	"	6	"	6	"
Agnes	"	"	5	"	9	"

(During the winter of 1783-84 George Murdoff's unit was the garrison at Cataraqui.)

This is the first entry regarding the family which mentions the children by name. Only four children are included. Clearly there was a total of seven children. James enlisted with his father in 1780. The petition of George Murdoff to bring his family to Canada mentioned six children, the 1781 subsistence list included six. George, Jr. having enlisted in 1782, one would have expected this 1783 list to include five dependent children rather than four. The probable explanation for the missing daughter lies in the fact that a girl was often struck off the ration list if she was considered old enough to work.

In addition to the children named on this 4 Dec 1783 list, we know from the Langhorn records that a "Nancy" Mordoff witnessed a marriage in 1796, so this appears to be the name of the daughter missing from the above list.
Nancy Mordoff, daughter of Geo Mordoff U.E. was [illegible]

The next information of record regarding this family appears in a "Return of Disbanded Soldiers and Loyalists Settled in Township No. 3 (Cataraqui) Mustered 6 Oct 1784". These people were on government rations for a period of three years after the allocation of land grants in the summer of 1784. All Loyalists over 10 were to receive a full ration, and children under 10 a half ration. The provisions were distributed at Kingston (Cataraqui). The above return shows that George Mordoff had with him a wife, two sons over 10, two daughters over 10, and a daughter under 10. So now we have again the required total of five dependent children. (James and George, Jr., being discharged soldiers, would draw provisions on their own account.)

From the foregoing and other information to be detailed later, the family seems to have consisted of the following:

GEORGE MORDOFF
born 1739/40
in Scotland

NANCY (ANN)
born Nov 1742
prob. in Scotland

JAMES	NANCY	GEORGE	JOHN	THOMAS	MARGARET	LUCY?AGNES?
born 1765 in Scotland		born 1769/70 in England	born about May of 1772	born about Nov of 1775 near Johnstown N.Y.	born about May of 1777 near Johnstown N.Y.	born about Feb of 1778 near Johnstown N.Y.
					m. JAMES FORSHEE in July 1795	

This name Agnes as the name of the youngest child appears only on the Provision list of 1783. It could well have been an error. Agnes was not a family name. A Lucy Mordoff applied for land in 1795, presumably as a married woman. It is difficult to account for this Lucy on any other basis than as the youngest daughter of George Mordoff, Sr. Lucy was a family name.

In addition to the family members mentioned above, the Anglican Church records indicate that a Margaret Mordoff was interred at St. Paul's Churchyard November 5, 1845, aged 108 years. If actually that old, she was born in either 1736 or 1737. She was possibly an unmarried sister of George Mordoff, Senior, who joined the family after their emigration to Canada.

rations at some military establishment in Canada on 25 December 1781. By that date hostilities had ceased and I would assume that they remained with her father's regiment until it was disbanded in the summer of 1784, at which time land grants were made to the soldiers and to the refugees who had by then arrived. The most accessible and desirable part of the land granted to her father was 100 acres adjacent to St. Paul's Church, Sandhurst, where she doubtless lived until her marriage. In 1795 her mother died. In July of 1798 when she was twenty-one she married James Forshee, who was eight years her senior. Girls of marriageable age were extremely scarce in the community at that time. On Nov 14 1797 she had been granted a [illegible] as a U.E. Loyalist

The record of her marriage (see photo opposite page 6 of the account of the Forshee family) tells us that she was then a spinster living in St. Paul's Parish of the Church of England, in Fredericksburg. She was married July 23, 1798 which was a Monday, banns having been read in church on the three preceding Sundays. She signed her marriage record with her mark, though her older brothers and sister were at least able to sign their names. It is interesting to note that her brothers James and George had been allotted land on the south shore of May Bay and directly across from where the Forshees lived on the north shore.

There were seven known children (see the account of the Forshee family, page 24). One would infer that at some time after the birth of their second child in 1802 she and her husband left the Anglican Church, since none of the later children were baptised by the Rev. Mr. Langhorn. She died March 20, 1836 at the age of 58 and was buried at Sand Hill. Beyond this scanty information, I know nothing about this woman, my great great grandmother.

The Other Children of George and Nancy Nordoff

James Nordoff. If the military records are correct, James, the eldest child, was born about November of 1765 in Scotland. He enlisted with his father on May 22, 1780, at which time he was fourteen and one half years of age.

The Loyalist List indicates that he was a private in the King's Royal Regiment of New York and that he was on the "Provision List of 1786". This indicates that he drew government stores at Kingston along with the other original Loyalists during the first three years of the new settlement. The entry also indicates that he drew 100 acres of land in 1784. This land consisted of half of lot 4 in the second Concession of Fredericksburg, which is across May Bay from Hare Island and slightly to the east.

He was married by 1789, since the Langhorn records indicate that he and his wife Lois had a son George, baptised May 16, 1790, and a daughter Nancy, baptised March 14, 1792. He must have sold his land, because in July 1795 he was in Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), stating that he and his wife were entitled to 400 acres, that they couldn't find any land acceptable to them in

the Midland District, and wanted 400 acres in the Home District. This seems to have been granted. They again petitioned for land 7 July 1796. By February 7, 1797 they were apparently back home again, since Mr. Langhorn baptised a daughter Anny on that date. He baptised another daughter Elizabeth 19 August 1798. In February of 1799 his brother John applied for a land grant and transferred title to James.

The Presbyterian Birth Register kept by the Rev. Mr. McDowall lists a child of James Mordoff and Lois Charter May 19, 1800 and a daughter Lucy born in 1803.

He and his brother Thomas witnessed a marriage in 1802. He obtained Crown deeds to land near Napanee - 200 acres in 1803 and 228 acres in 1804. (The latter land was later the site of the old Agricultural Fair Grounds, south of the river and immediately east of the Kingston road.)

Nancy Mordoff. The only mention of this daughter by name occurs in her brother John's marriage record which she witnessed in May 1796. Whether she married or who she married is not known. *

George Mordoff, Jr. He was born in England late in 1769 or early in 1770, if the military data regarding him are accurate. He appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Mordoff senior and a member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The Haldimand Papers give his date of enlistment as June 25, 1782. The survey maps indicate that he was awarded the other half of lot 4 drawn by his brother James (see above). The Langhorn records indicate that he and his wife Lucy had a daughter Nancy baptised January 18, 1795. The Loyalist List compiled in 1796 carries the note "left the Province". However, he must have returned because he served in the militia during the War of 1812. A muster roll indicates that he gave his age as 45 in 1812. Others on this list also overstated their ages, presumably in order to sooner terminate their military obligations.

John Mordoff. The Loyalist List shows him to have been a son of George Mordoff senior, who received a grant of 200 acres of land on coming of age in 1793. He was therefore born in 1772. The Cataraqui Provision List suggests that he was born about May of that year. The survey maps indicate that he held lots 9, 10 and 11 (600 acres) on the south side of Bay Bay (in Fredericksburg additional). He was one of the witnesses at his sister Margaret's marriage to James Forshee in 1798.

The Langhorn records include the record of his marriage to Jane Murlburt, widow, (both of St. Oswald's Fredericksburg) in May 1796. The witnesses included his brother Thomas and his sister Nancy.

The following children were baptized by Mr. Langhorn.

John	September 2, 1797
George	March 31, 1799
John	June 30, 1804

* Orig. draft of this have a note [illegible] suggest that she married Stephen Francis Sandwell 22 Nov 1800.
She was granted 200 acres 27 Jan 1799

Nicholas	August 10, 1806
Nancy	November 15, 1807
William Watts	1809
Jane	1811
Robert Russell	1813

The Presbyterian birth register of the Rev. Mr. McDowall includes a child William born in 1800, the son of John Nordoff and Jean Watts (apparently the mother's maiden name was used in this instance).

The above listed daughter Nancy married John O'Flynn in 1826. My grandfather Wilson knew that his friends the O'Flynns were related to him through a marriage to one of the Nordoffs. This girl would be his mother's first cousin.

Thomas Nordoff appears on the Loyalist List as a son of George Nordoff senior. He witnessed his brother John's marriage in 1796. There is no known surviving record of any marriage or any children. The Anglican Church records indicate that he was interred in St. Paul's Churchyard April 3, 1845, aged 70. John and Thomas were obviously the "two sons over ten years of age" in the census previously mentioned. The Cataraqui Provision List suggests that he was born about November 1775, which is inconsistent with his alleged age 70 at burial. The latter is probably in error and means "in his 70th year". On 12 July 1797 he was granted 200 acres as a Loyalist

Lucy Nordoff. This daughter petitioned for land as "Lucy Russell alias Nordoff" at the same time as James Russell (presumably her husband), 26 March 1798. She would have been twenty at that time.

There are some scattered references to Nordoffs in the community, as vestrymen of St. Paul's Church and in other connections during the first half of the past century. Any surviving male descendents seem to have gone elsewhere, since there is no further mention of the name. I have never heard of anyone bearing the name today. As I mentioned earlier, I believe that it represents a corruption of "Murloch".

Practically all of this information about this family was developed through the cooperation of Dr. N. C. Burleigh of Bath, Ontario. My grandfather, James P. Wilson (a grandson of Margaret Nordoff), who was born in 1848, apparently knew nothing about this family. Had he known that they were Loyalists, I am sure he would have told me.

Archibald C. Wilson, M. D.
April 24, 1958

NY G&B Record

A MUCH ALTERED FAMILY NAME.

By Dingman Versteeg.
Author of "Manhattan in 1628."

Few New Netherland names have been more twisted out of recognition than that of Verschuur or Verscheur. As long as the bearers and their neighbors still maintained a reading acquaintance with the classic tongue of New Netherland the name did not swerve much from its original form. When, however, the exigency of the time and the circumstances of life forced the descendants of New Netherland's pioneers to devote most of their time to learning English, and consequently to discontinue, to a large extent, the study of their mother tongue, it became different. English pronunciation, also began to replace the Dutch pronunciation. The influence of the political language over the popular speech gradually became irresistable, chiefly because the newly arriving immigrants, though English neither by birth nor sympathies, naturally accepted the tongue which would be most useful to them in the country of their adoption. Therefore, though English did not entirely replace Dutch until about 1840, it had been discontinued here as a literary tongue long before that time, and very many Dutch names, pronounced according to English rules—or lack of rules—had been twisted out of even a semblance to their original identity.

Besides many people bearing the names of Van der Schueren, Van der Schuur, Van Schuur, Van der Schuure, Ver Schuure and Van der Schuuren, there were, in 1687 at least three males by the name of Verschuur or Verscheur. Wouter Gysbertsen Verscheur who had arrived in New Netherland in 1649, and who had married Dorothea Jochems Callier; and Jochem and Hendrick Verschuur, both natives of this country, Jochem, born July 8, 1668, and Hendrick, born May 27, 1671, sons of Wouter, and all living at the time at Boswyck (Bushwick), L. I. Even at this early date the name began to be misspelled; Verschuere, Verschuer, Verscheure and other modifications trying to supercede the original form. It would appear that the Verscheurs early joined the "treks" into New Jersey, for after May 14, 1702, when Claes, child of Jochem Verschcure was baptized at Brooklyn, their names disappear from the Kings Co. Church records. There is a gap between their last appearance at Brooklyn and their next appearance at Hackensack. The probability is that they joined the church at the Ponds which was organized in 1710 but the records of which are stated to have been burned with the parsonage a quarter of a century, or longer, ago. This calamity was responsible for serious breaks in many family genealogies and the Verschuurs doubtless are among them. This record also would show the gradual modification of the name.

When they next appear at Hackensack, Schraalenburgh and especially at Paramus, the modification had become so marked that only a close comparison and a knowledge of the way the

He didn't know about Sleep Hollow?

original name would likely be pronounced in a rural Dutch community, subject to English lingual influences, enable the genealogist—by analogy—to revert to the original name.

On Sept 27, 1724, there was baptized at Hackensack, Eva, child of Paulus Retan and Elizabeth Fosuw. Here the original name, by itself, is unrecognizable. Only comparison with other forms will lead back to it. At the baptism of their son Johannes, on Aug. 8, 1731, her name is entered as Elizabeth Foshier. Maritjen, bapt. Jan. 21, 1739, is entered as the child of Jacob Fescheur. Jacob Fesyies—probably a grandson of the former—on March 21, 1790, had his son Isaac baptized.

The Schraalenburgh records are still more puzzling. On Feb. 20, 1763, Pieter Vasie had twins baptized there named Jacobus and Barent. One of the witnesses at the baptism was Barent Vasie, who may have been the grandfather or an uncle of the twins. On July 7, 1782, at the baptism of Barent Demarest, Barent Vasei officiated as a witness. On Aug. 3, 1777, when his daughter Jannetie was baptized, Peter Veseur was entered as the father's name. Jacob Forshie and Antie Westervelt, in April, 1794, had a daughter, Jacamyntie, baptized. At the baptism of their daughter Agnietje on August 26, 1792, and also at the baptism of their twins on July 13, 1800, his name is entered as Jacob Fashie. It would be too tedious a task to trace in detail the variations on the original name, and since the record has been published it will be sufficient to note the general deviations: Vasie, Vasei, Vasee, Fasui, Vasuir, Fesyeur, Fesuer, Fasei, Fesche, Feseur, Fousieur, Vouschie, Forshie.

The Paramus Reformed Church records throw most light on the evolution, and in fact, in the absence of the connecting records between 1702 and 1760—two generations—afford the most positive means of identification.

On Aug. 9, 1760, there was baptized at Paramus, Catharine, the daughter of Barend and Francyntje Fochi. The witnesses were Jan and Catharina Fochi. Jannetje, baptized Nov. 1, 1763, was entered as the child of Barend and Francyntje Vochie. On Dec. 28, 1765, at the baptism of their daughter Maria they were entered as Barend and Sientje Veseur, while the witnesses were named Pieter and Maria Vosuer. On Dec. 25, 1768, took place the baptism of Annatje, child of Barend and Syntje Veseur. When on April 28, 1771, their daughter Magdalena was christened the parents' names were entered as Barend and Francyntje Verseur, the witnesses being Hannes and Magdalena Verseur.

Around 1760 the rendering of the name as Fochi appears to have been in great favor with the registrar of the Paramus church, as shown by one of the foregoing entries, and also by the next following. When on Nov. 16, 1760, the child Jan was baptized, his parents' names are put down as Pieter and Maria Fochi, the witnesses' names being inscribed as Jan and Catharina Fochi. Fourteen years later, on April 24, 1774, at the baptism of their son Barend, the parents were entered as Pieter and Maria Verseur.

The next on the list were the parents of at least seven children, and their names, as entered in the record, approach some-

what closer to the original family cognomen. On Aug. 2, 1761, Johannes and Lena Verseur had a son baptized named Abraham. Hannes and Lena Veseur, on Aug. 30, 1763, had their son Pieter baptized, and the witnesses were Pieter and Maria Veseur. At the baptism of their daughter Annatje, May 26, 1765, the parents are recorded as Hannes and Lena Ferseur. When on May 15, 1768, their son Barend was baptized, the parents were entered as Hannes and Lena Veseur. At the baptism of Cornelis, July 1, 1770, they appear as Hannes and Lena Verseur. Their names are entered as Hannes and Lena Versieur at the baptism of their son Willem on March 21, 1773, the witnesses being Willem and Lisabeth Versieur. Three years later, on March 31, 1776, at the baptism of their son Samuel, the parents are again recorded under the name of Hannes and Lena Veseur.

Willem and Lisabeth Vesieur on June 7, 1764, had their son Jan baptized, the names of the witnesses being given as Jan and Catriena Vescur. On March 23, 1766, at the baptism of his son Cornelis, the father's name was put down as Willem Voseur. The same parents on Sept. 9, 1769, at the baptism of their son David, were entered as Willim and Lisabeth Veseur.

In 1787 the second Paramus generation of Verscheurs began to appear as parents of children. The first one of this second generation was Abraham, the son of Johannes. On March 4, 1787, there was baptized Magdalena, and her parents names were given as Abraham and Elisabeth Fersyeur, while the witnesses were entered as Johannes and Rebecka Fersyeur, which sounds somewhat as people of English education would pronounce Verschuur ~~or~~ Verscheur. On Sept. 28, 1788, at the baptism of their son Jacob, the parents' names were given as Abraham and Elisabeth Feryeur. In Oct., 1790, their daughter Annatje was baptized and at this time they were registered as Abraham and Elisabeth Feyuer, while two years later, on Sept. 18, 1792, at the baptism of their son John, they were recorded as Abraham and Elisabeth Fesheur. On Nov. 2, 1794, at the christening of their son Abraham, they were entered as Abraham and Elisabeth Fesjeur. Their names were given as Abraham and Elisabeth Fesyeur at the baptism of their daughter Antje on June 20, 1798. Seven years elapsed before there appeared another baptismal entry, recording an addition to their family. Then, on Feb. 20, 1805, their son Peter was baptized and here they were recorded as Abraham and Elisabeth Forshur. They appeared under the name of Abraham and Elisabeth Forshuer at the christening of their son William on Dec. 18, 1806, and were entered as Abraham and Elisabeth Forshea at the baptism of their youngest child Magdalena on Feb. 21, 1808.

Catrientje, baptized July 15, 1787, had as parents Jan W. and Wyntje Fersyeur, while on Nov. 1, 1789, at the baptism of their son Johannes, these were entered as Jan W. and Wyntje Fesyeur.

It would appear that many of the Verscheur or Verschuur descendants had moved away from Paramus, and like so many thousands of other pioneer families had joined in the "treks" further South, North and West. At least the next, to appear in

chronological succession, on the record, are Cornelis and Jannetje Fesyeur, who on Sept. 8, 1793, had their son William baptized, and on Jan, 24, 1796, were entered as the parents of a girl named Jannetje.

On Nov. 16, 1794, David and Maria Fesyeur were registered as the parents of William, while on Oct. 18, 1807, at the baptism of their daughter Trientje, they were named David and Maria Forshur.

It is evident that, towards the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, with one branch of the family at least, the name began to reapproach somewhat to the original form, and had become more fixed. Elizabeth, baptized May 24, 1801; Rachel, baptized Jan: 29, 1804; John, baptized Sept. 29, 1805, and David, baptized June 11, 1810, are all entered as children of Cornelius and Maria Forshur. They probably had more children, but if so, these doubtless were baptized in other denominational or neighboring churches.

There is one more evidence of the undoubted Dutch origin of the various modifications of the same original name, noted in this article. It was penned at a time when Dutch as a literary tongue, was beginning to be somewhat neglected by even the educated religious leaders of the descendants of New Netherland's pioneers, and reads as follows: "List of members found by the Reverend Wilhelmus Eltinge at the time of his house visiting throughout the Congregation of Paramus, about May 1, 1799:

Barend and Francyntje Ferschuir, married people.

Catharina, wife of —— Fershuir."

KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK, DEEDS.

Contributed by David McQueen,
Supervisor of Reindexing, Office of Commissioner of Records of the County of Kings.

(Continued from Vol. XLVIII, p. 298, of the Record.)

Page 304. Appointment of Jacobus Vandewater of Broockland, as depute Clerck, dated Jany 10th, 1692/3 signed Henry Filkin, Rec'd. Jany 16th, 1692/3 J. Vandewater, D. Regr.

Page 305. Appointment of Justices of the Peace, Frederick Phillips, Stephen Courtland, Nicholas Bayard, Wm. Smith, Gabriell Monvielle, Childley Brooke, William Nicolls, Tho. Willett, Peter Skyler, John Lawrence, John Youngs, & Caleb Heathcoate, of our councell for our province of New Yorke, Rocloff Martinse, Nicholas Stillwell, Joseph Hegeman, Henry Filkin, John Tunisse Dykehuys, Peter Cortilleou, and Stofle Probasco, Esqrs., Kings County dated Febr. 6th, 1692/3, Benjamin Fletcher, Govr. Gen'll. Ma. Clarkson, Secry. Rec'd. Feby 20th, 1692/3 Henry Filkin, Regr.

Page 308. Will of Gerritt Snediker. See extracts, Vol. XLVII, page 227, *N. Y. Gen. & Biog. Record.*

P. 24

In Memoriam